OCTOBER 1994

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Down Goes De La Hoya!
DOES THE GOLDEN BOY HAVE A GLASS JAW?

Meldrick Thinks It's Time
BUT IS TAYLOR-CHAVEZ II LATE?

Battle Of The Legends
EZZARD CHARLES vs. EVANDER HOLYFIELD

RATING THE CHAMPS

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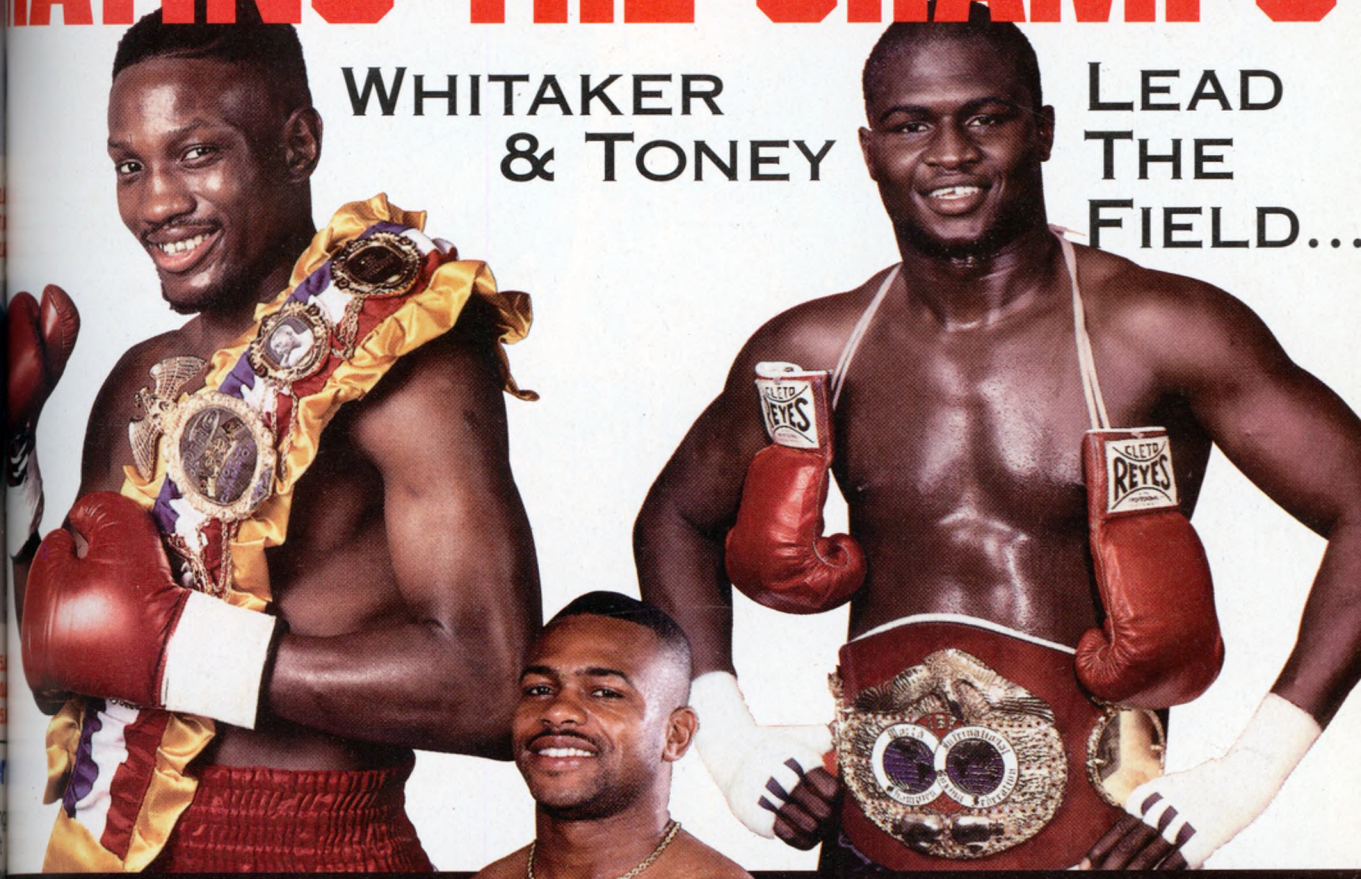

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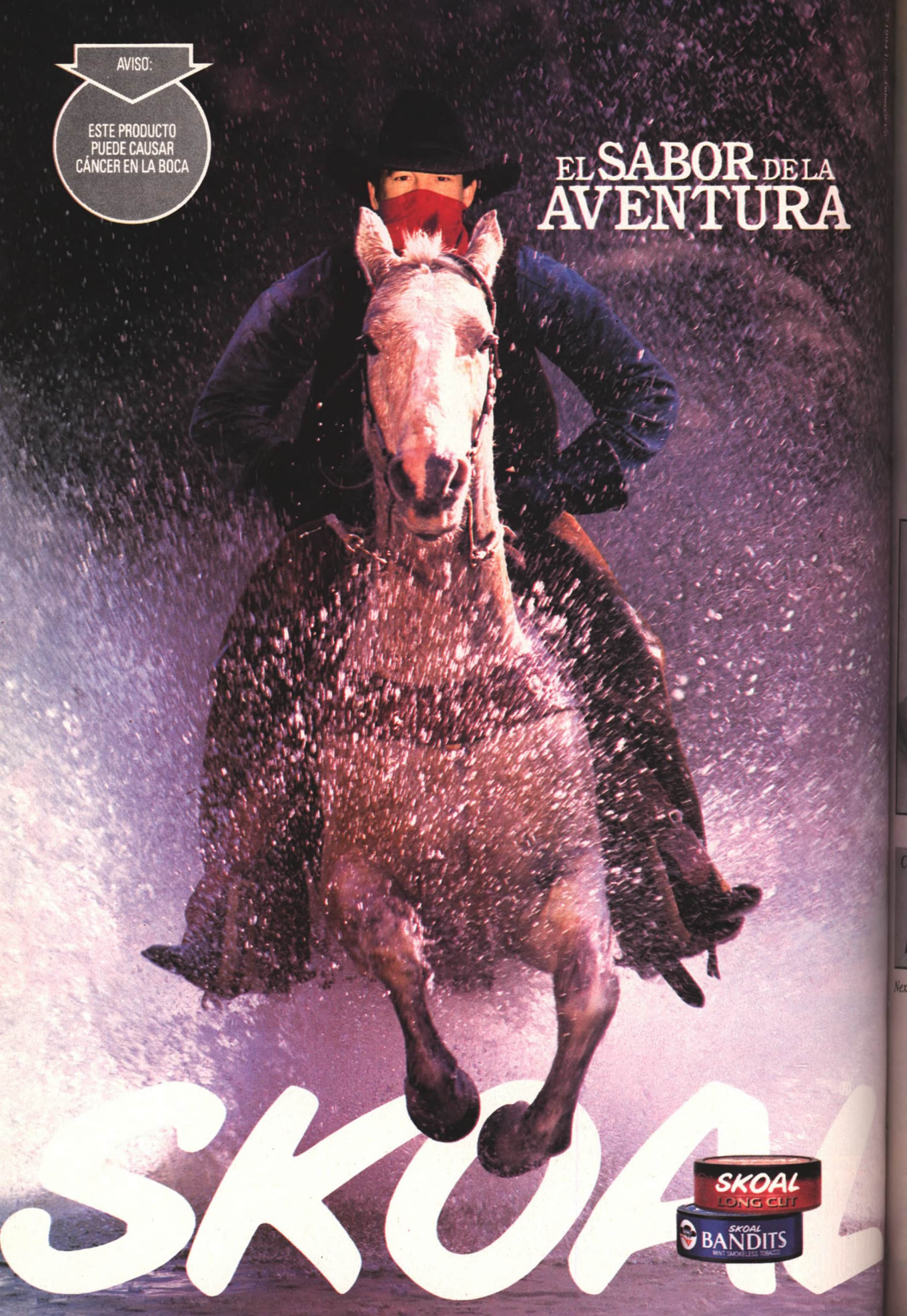
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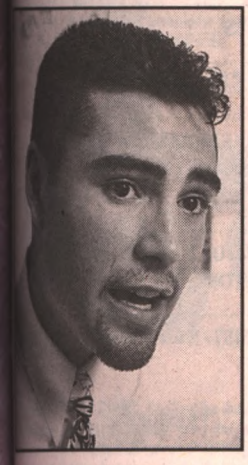

Cover: Pernell Whitaker by Kevin McManus James Toney by Darryl Coulman Roy Jones by Al Bello

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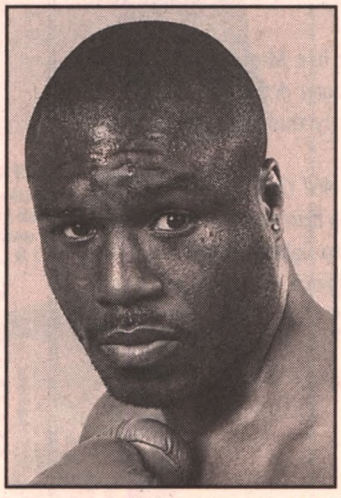

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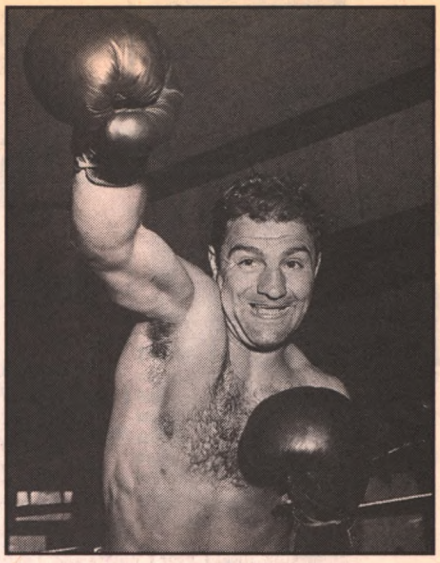

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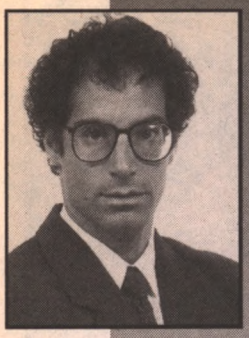

Ringside

I reserve the right to change my mind, at least partly because I make enough bad predictions without stubbornly refusing to consider changes, trends, and fresh information.

Two fighters I've changed my mind about are Meldrick Taylor and George Foreman. Not long ago I would've used this space to censure a matchup between WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez and Taylor. After Taylor was kayoed by Crisanto Espana in October 1992, Lou Duva broke off his relationship with the fighter and suggested the one-time boy wonder retire. Indeed, Taylor, only 26, looked like a shot fighter. The time for a rematch with Chavez had been in the months following their classic 1990 rumble. Had a second bout materialized in 1992 or early-'93, it would have seemed like boxing at its ugliest: a human sacrifice in the name of a money-making promotion.

I thought Taylor's low point came last September, when he awkwardly challenged Chavez at the press conference following "J.C. Superstar's" controversial draw with Pernell Whitaker in San Antonio. Puffy and seemingly desperate, Taylor looked about 175 pounds and might as well have challenged Virgil Hill. A lot has changed since then. First, in two fights vs. Frankie Randall, Chavez has shown he's on the down side of a fantastic career. He might still hurt Taylor, but he might get hurt, too. Second, Taylor is suddenly surrounded by positives. He has new management, a new outlook, and a new body (he scaled 143 for his last bout). I wouldn't feel good about a matchup against a dangerous young welterweight like Felix Trinidad or Ike Quartey, but at this point in Taylor's career, Chavez might be at the right level. In one sense, he and Taylor have come to deserve each other, like Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns in 1989.

It's Randall, of course, and not Taylor, who deserves another bout with Chavez. But if Taylor gets the shot, at least I'll no longer be fearing a potential tragedy.

As for Big George, I've never been in favor of a mandatory retirement age. That aside, in the early stages of his comeback, I underrated him. The first time he faces a legitimate contender, I said, he'll be exposed. But Foreman proved competitive enough to extend then-world champion Evander Holyfield. That was more than three years ago. Since then, Foreman has been beaten up in two of four fights. Alex Stewart, whom he outpointed, rearranged his face, and Tommy Morrison, who outpointed him, took his best punches and *outfinessed* him.

You would've thought being outfinessed by a plodder like Morrison would have embarrassed Foreman into retirement. But after Michael Moorer dethroned Holyfield in April, Big George found himself at the top of a painfully thin list of marketable challengers. Moorer-Foreman now seems set for November.

America's favorite muffler salesman is now 45. Or is it 46? Only a couple of years ago, I would've eagerly anticipated Foreman vs. any of the top heavyweights in the world. Now? If the commission doctors say it's okay for him to keep fighting, I won't question them. But a matchup against Moorer seems an unnecessary stretch. If George gets beaten up, we'll all feel not only sad, but dirty as well.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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The RING

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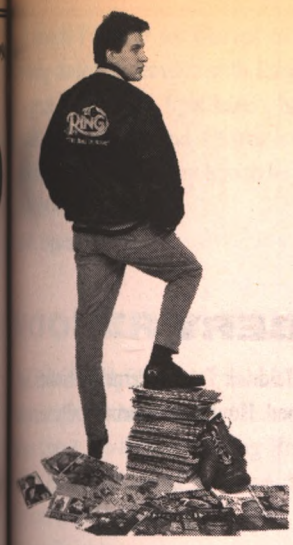

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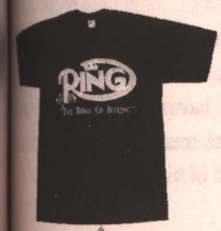

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Come Out Writing

THE GREAT REVENGE ROBBERY

I just watched "J.C. Superstar" get his butt kicked for the fourth time (Meldrick Taylor, Pernell Whitaker, and two fights vs. Frankie Randall). Randall won at least six rounds and got robbed. How come whenever Chavez gets beaten, he ends up with a draw or a win?
PAUL J. RAUH
St. Petersburg, FL

I hope Randall smartens up and tells Don King, Chavez, and the WBC to take their worthless and ugly title belt and stick it. Randall is too nice and decent to fight for it. As far as I'm concerned, the WBO title is more respectable. At first I scoffed when Riddick Bowe dumped his WBC belt in the trash. The garbage can was much too good; it should've been dumped in a Grand Central Station toilet.
ANDREW WORKMAN
Lucerne Valley, CA

Please correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't Nevada still part of the United States? If so, why was Chavez treated like he was the defending champion and fighting in Mexico City? Randall was done a great injustice. He was treated like an outsider in his own country. It may be such a display of anti-patriotism that serves as the knockout punch to boxing.
DAVID R. CAMPBELL
Lakewood, CO

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

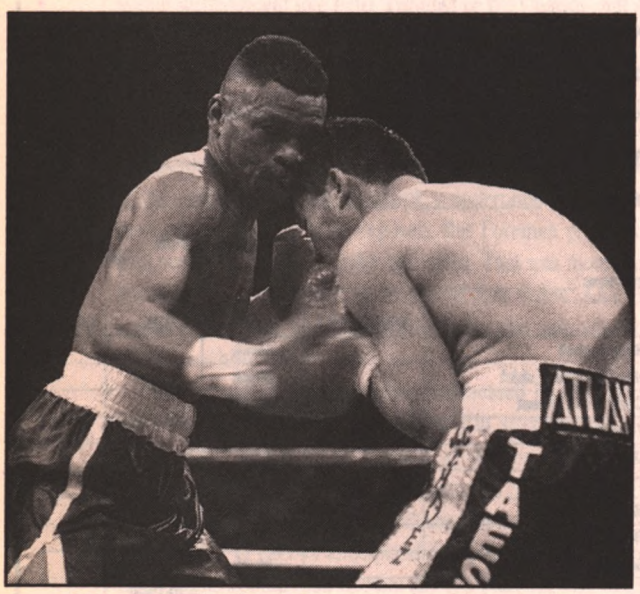


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Many readers feel Randall was en route to a kayo victory

Decisions like Chavez-Randall II seem to be growing at an alarming rate. Something must be done to rectify the situation. Open scoring may be a step in the right direction. If changes don't come soon, fans will begin to ignore the sport. I've had enough of these pay-per-view shenanigans and refuse to pay for another event until some changes are made.
MICHAEL GARDNER
Pasadena, CA

In the June 1994 issue of THE RING, the general feeling in "Come Out Writing" was that Chavez had slightly misjudged Randall and would destroy him in the rematch. To everyone's surprise, including Chavez, this was not the case. Chavez sensed he couldn't match Randall in the late rounds and took his chance with the cards. A third fight will likely bring the end of his glorious career.
MALCOLM MAXWELL
Glasgow, Scotland

Is Chavez the luckiest fighter you've ever seen? He leads with his head the entire bout, and then, after an unintentional butt, it's poor Randall who loses a point. And what about Mexico's Ray Solis, who scored 77-74 for Chavez? Where was he when the fight was taking place?
MIKE CORRENTE
Plainfield, CT

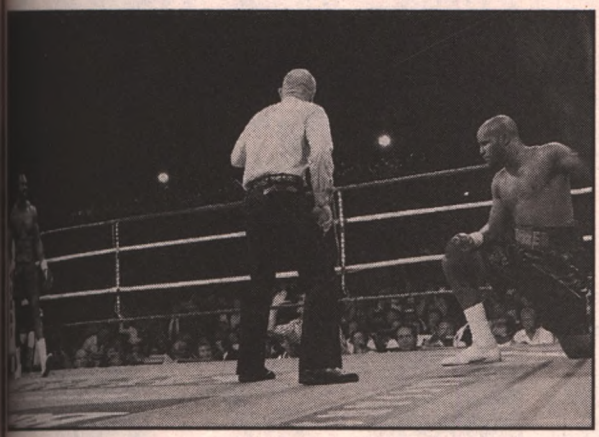
I thought I'd never see Chavez moving backward, but when he began retreating during his rematch with Randall, I knew I was watching the end of a great career. If the fight hadn't been stopped, Chavez would've been kayoed. It's time for the end. Chavez is a superstar, and superstars should go out with dignity. I don't want him to be another Roberto Duran.

SHUN MATSUOKA
Tokyo, Japan

MOORER'S FUTURE

If Evander Holyfield didn't have a bad heart and bum shoulder, Michael Moorer might not have lasted 12 rounds. After watching Moorer hit the canvas from a less-than-devastating Holyfield combination in round two, I believe he'll get kayoed by Lennox Lewis, Riddick Bowe, Tommy Morrison, or even Lionel Butler. This guy does not have the chin to stay champion for long.

JAMES RONINGER
Chico, CA



Moorer rose to beat Holyfield, but failed to win over the public

By now, Michael Moorer, America's latest heavyweight champion, has probably read the popular book, *How To Avoid Lennox Lewis*, by A. Merica. Many years ago, Joe Louis said of fleet-footed challenger Billy Conn, "He can run, but he can't hide." In today's American boxing world, where crime, corruption, and deceit are not so much a business as a religion, the fighters don't even have to hide anymore. Outside your country, Moorer is considered only the heavyweight champion of the United States. Lennox Lewis is the legitimate champion.

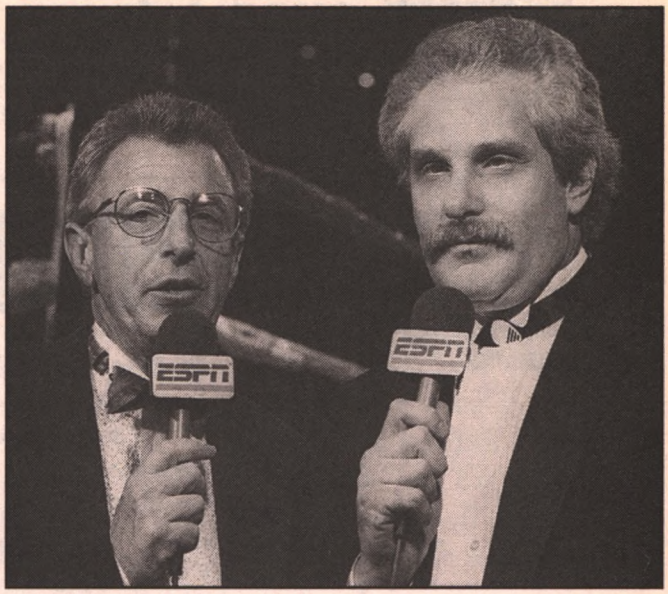
Will Michael be christened "No Moorer"?

E. FIRTH
West Yorkshire, England

FEET & FISTS

In regard to your feature "From Feet To Fists: The Kickboxing Connection" (THE RING, June 1994), you failed to mention legendary light heavyweight champion Georges Carpentier. "The Orchid Man," who was best-known for challenging heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey in 1921, was a practitioner of Savate, a French form of boxing in which both fists and feet are used. *La boxe Francaise*, as it is called, has been an organized sport in France since 1840 and was a demonstration sport at the 1924 Olympics in Paris.

BOB BROWNE
New York, NY



Do Tompkins and Bernstein value quantity over quality?

THE COUNT DOESN'T ALWAYS COUNT

Will somebody please sit down with ESPN's Al Bernstein and Barry Tompkins and explain the difference between professional and amateur boxing? I'm getting a little tired of these two announcers patting each other on the back when the punch profile agrees with their choice as the winner of a round. Just because a fighter landed 15 more punches doesn't necessarily mean he won the round. Punch profile numbers are interesting, but that's it. If announcers are going to treat them as something more, perhaps it's time to dump the statistics entirely.

BRIAN CURLEY
Maitland, Ontario

REMEMBERING JERSEY JOE

There hangs in my office a picture of Jersey Joe Walcott. Many people come through my door over the course of a day. Whenever someone new passes by, he or she always asks, "Who is that?" I say, "Oh, just a guy who changed my life."

The funny part about it is that I never met Jersey Joe. It happened while I was watching a news clip of the Joe Louis fight in 1947. I was just a kid. Walcott won the fight, but they gave it to "The Brown Bomber." Up till then I had been told I would never amount to anything. But here was a guy from nowhere who deserved to be on top of the world. From that moment on, I knew that with a dream, style, and hard work, I could win.

JOHN BOLAS
Oshawa, Ontario ■

Round One

TALKIN' TRASH LEADS TO BIG BASH

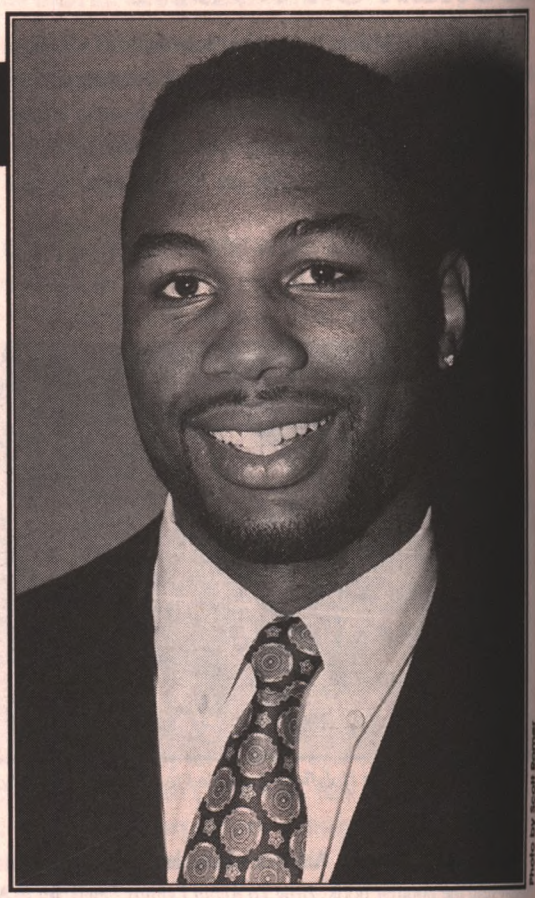


Photo by Scott Rowley

Forget the talk: Lewis (above) and Bowe will fight

In May, BBC Radio hooked up Riddick Bowe and Lennox Lewis on its *Sports-America* show. One of the livelier exchanges, courtesy of producer Rob Smith:

Bowe: "How ya doin', Lenny?"

Lewis: "All right."

Bowe: "Let me ask you, Lennox. Let me tell you something. You know right know if you and I were to get together, I think that would be the biggest fight out there. You know it's been said I've been ducking you and you've been ducking me. Well, I'm glad I have you on the phone right now so I can ask you in front of the British public: Why not let's get it on?"

Lewis: "Well, you know, I have a different agenda. You know, I'm after the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world, and right now Michael Moorer has the two belts that I want as well, and you have to remember that you need me right now, I don't need you. You've already ... [Bowe tries to interrupt] ... no, listen, you don't have nothing to offer me. You've gotten beat by a guy with a heart problem [Evander Holyfield], and I need to go after the guy who has the two belts, then you."

Forget all the talk. During a transatlantic conference call on June 17, managers Rock Newman (Bowe) and Frank Maloney (Lewis), and promoter Panos Eliades (Panix Promotions) announced the rival heavyweights will clash for Lewis' WBC title in the first week of November or December. According to Newman, the bout will "most likely" take place in the United States, with the highest bidder of three Las Vegas hotels (the MGM Grand, The Mirage, and Caesars Palace) to host. The figures are staggering: Lewis will earn at least $18-million and Bowe a minimum of $13-million. TVKO will handle the pay-per-view distribution.

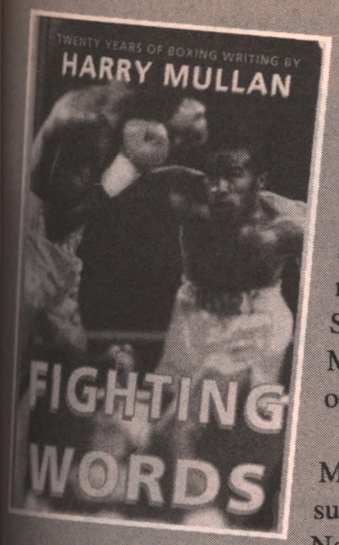
The managers said unsatisfying negotiations with WBA-IBF champion Michael Moorer led them toward each other.

"The only thing left out [of negotiations for a Lewis-Moorer unification bout] was my first-born child," said Eliades.

One potential roadblock was averted when WBC President Jose Sulaiman agreed to sanction the bout (and presumably rank Bowe in the top-10), and Bowe agreed to fight for the WBC title.

When it comes to big fights, big money, it seems, carries a lot more weight than principles.

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF



The introduction to *Fighting Words* begins, "An anthology is, almost by definition, a lazy man's book; you've already written the words, so why not pull them together into book form and cut out the creative process entirely?"

The author, Harry Mullan, is far too humble. First of all, Mullan is anything but lazy; he's the editor of the British weekly *Boxing News*, a newspaper columnist in London, and the author of a handful of books. Secondly, the 384 pages of *Fighting Words*, which feature 20 years of Mullan's writing, suggest a keen and creative mind. Simply put, Mullan is one of the finest fight writers of his generation.

Fighting Words is a collection of ringside reports, essays, and profiles. My favorite chapter is "Fight Faces," an up-close-and-personal look at such diverse characters as John Conteh, Azumah Nelson, and Bill Cayton. No matter the subject, Mullan can't hide his love for boxing. His passion has helped sustain a mutually beneficial relationship: He can't get enough of the fight game, and we can't get enough of his words.

Fighting Words is sold only by mail order. Send $20 to Colebridge Associates, 5 Union Road, Bridge, Canterbury CT4 5LN Kent, England.

–Steve Farhood

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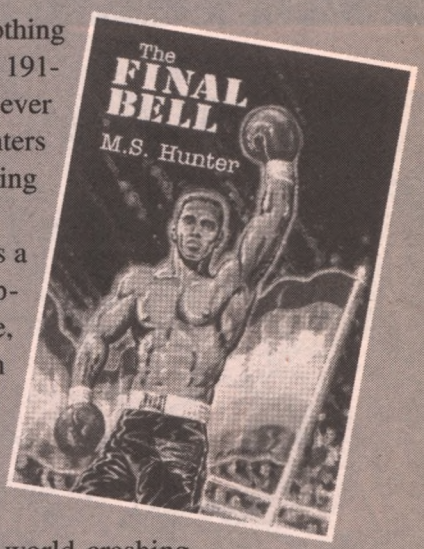


Save for the fact that boxing is the subject, *The Final Bell* has nothing in common with *Fighting Words*. In fact, M.S. Hunter's ambitious 191-page novel ($8.95, Alyson Publications) is different from anything ever written about the Sweet Science. That's because *The Final Bell* centers on New York City welterweight Stormy Rhodes, who, after winning the world title, announces on national television that he is gay.

Boxing, like football, has always been a bastion of machismo. As a result, for some fans, the story of Stormy Rhodes is incomprehensible. But there have been many gay fighters, and, we're sure, some gay world champions, too. What makes *The Final Bell* an intriguing read is not shock value, but the tumultuous and often violent road Rhodes travels after coming out; there are more plot twists than at a meeting of the WBC ratings committee. Moreover, Hunter knows boxing, which keeps the narrative credible.

One minor complaint: From beginning to end, and with their world crashing down around them, Rhodes and his lover Carlos remain remarkably focused and well-adjusted. Given the circumstances, they're a bit too perfect. We'll dismiss it as literary license.

–Steve Farhood

GIVE ME BACK THAT BELT!

That damn Rule 5.8 gets 'em every time. Or is it Rule 19?

In May, WBA middleweight champion John David Jackson, who hasn't defended the title since dethroning Reggie Johnson last October, tuned up by knocking out Jeff Johnson on the Lennox Lewis-Phil Jackson undercard. Bad move. According to the WBA's Jim Binns, Jackson did not inform the organization of the fight, and did not pay the required fee.

"Rule 5.8 was passed at the convention in Panama in 1991," said Binns. "Jackson was stripped on May 23."

In an effort to restore the title, Jackson and his promoter, Garden State Boxing, are fighting back in court.

"I'm certainly not aware of the rule, or the rule change," said Bob Goodman, president of Garden State Boxing. "When we took the over-the-weight match, I got a fax saying we hadn't asked for an exception to Rule 19."

When THE RING told Goodman that Binns had also referred to a fee of "$5,000 or $10,000," he said, "That blows my f____' mind." Jackson, he said, had earned only $15,000 for the fight.

If the courts uphold the WBA's ruling, it's anticipated former champion Johnson and Argentina's Jorge Castro will battle for the vacant crown, with Jackson to face the winner.

–Steve Farhood

*Has Jackson lost the belt **outside** the ring?*

THE SIX-YEAR-OLD CHAMP

Joey Quail has lots of friends at the Forum

Joey Quail will never win a world title, but at the Great Western Forum, he's taught lots of boxing people what it means to be a champ.

The six-year-old Quail, who lives with his parents and two sisters in Simi Valley, California, was born with cerebral palsy. A boxing fanatic ever since he saw his first *Rocky* movie, Joey went to his first fight card with his father.

"It was very exciting; we saw Chiquita Gonzalez at the Forum, and Joey loved it," said Billy Quail. "We sat behind Magic Johnson and the Budweiser Ringsider girls and saw Chiquita win. It really seemed to motivate Joey. Now we have a club, the Joey Quail Boxing Club, and because of good guys like [Ray] Leonard, [Roberto] Duran, and Stan Ward, we now not only have season tickets, but will open a gym in Simi Valley called the Joey Quail Boxing Gym.

"That first night we brought his wheelchair, but Joey couldn't get around, so the next time we took his walker. Now the walker is history and he uses canes. The first time he used his canes was at the Forum fights. It's hard to say how much Forum boxing has meant to Joey, but now he believes he can do anything, including walking without the aid of anything.

"And Joey is working very hard to learn to read so he can know without asking what Jorge Paez has written into his head."

THE 10 SIGNS THAT YOU'RE BURNT OUT ON BOXING

10. You rent a tape of Cindy Crawford and Claudia Schiffer in bathing suit poses but watch it only after checking out Bigfoot Martin on *Tuesday Night Fights*.

9. You decide it's time for a checkup and call the Nevada State Athletic Commission for Flip Homansky's number.

8. You consider James Toney the ultimate roll model because his mother owns a bakery.

7. You have a recurring dream featuring Harold Lederman, Eddie "The Clot" Aliano, Jorge Paez, and a bearded lady.

6. You judge your wife's cooking on a 10-point must system.

5. You write your congressman insisting on a 10-count during the funerals of war heroes and statesmen.

4. You can spell and pronounce the names of all the contenders from Thailand.

3. You can't understand why Rafael Ruelas has never been asked to host *Saturday Night Live*.

2. You think Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins is allowed to fight only in states that issue the death penalty.

1. You attend a wedding, and when the best man is asked for the ring, you wonder who's on the cover.

THE PUNCHLINE

Spike Lee and Indiana Pacers all-star Reggie Miller made a bet on the Pacers-Knicks playoff series. If the Pacers won, Lee had to write a part for Miller's wife in his next movie. If the Knicks won, Miller had to visit Mike Tyson in prison. As it turned out, New York defeated Indiana in seven games.

A suggestion: Miller likes to talk trash. Maybe "Iron Mike" can teach him that speech he made before his rematch with Razor Ruddock. You know, the one about making Ruddock his wife. Should go over big in the NBA, don't you think?

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

WBA/IBF heavyweight champion **Michael Moorer** underwent surgery on a knuckle in his left thumb in May. He was to wear a cast for six weeks and resume sparring in August. It's anticipated he'll make his first defense in November ... The comeback of former triple-crown champion **Alexis Arguello** was slowed by a broken rib. Arguello, 42, hasn't fought in more than eight years ... IBF middleweight champion **Roy Jones** was arrested in June after a loaded handgun was found in his luggage during a routine customs check at an airport in Bermuda. Police said Jones told officers someone else packed his bags and did not know the gun was inside. The charges were later dropped.

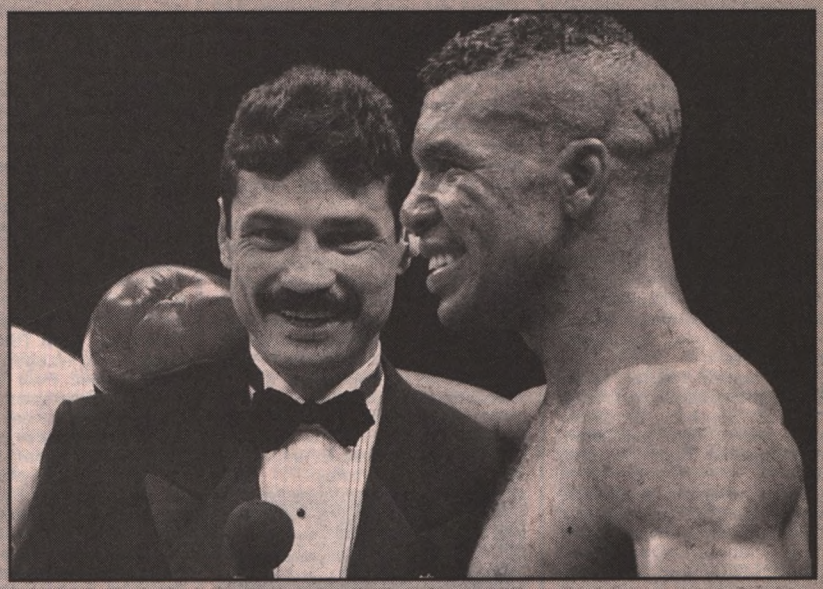
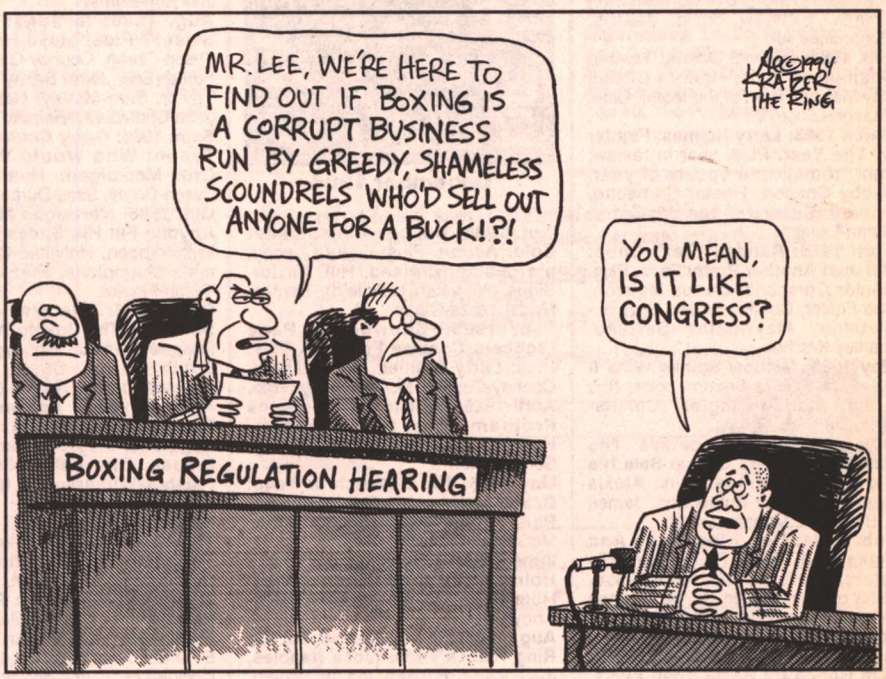


Photo by Nasser Khan/"The Fightmaster"

Arguello's switch from tux to trunks has been postponed

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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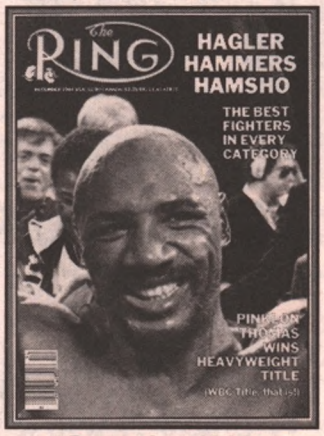

December 1984

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

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Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

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Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, *Raging Bull II*.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

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Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: All Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

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Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

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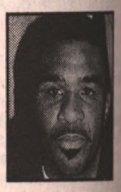
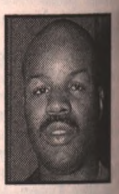
Larry Donald

Al Cole



Steve Little



Tony Thornton

Julio Cesar Chavez

John-John Molina

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *35-0 (WBA & IBF Champ)*
2. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD *34-1*
3. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *25-0 (WBC Champ)*
4. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL *24-5*
5. **RAZOR RUDDOCK** — Ft. Lauderdale, FL *29-4-1*
6. **HERBIE HIDE** — England *26-0*
7. **LARRY HOLMES** — Easton, PA *60-4*
8. **LARRY DONALD** — Cincinnati, OH *15-0*
9. **LIONEL BUTLER** — Houston, TX *22-10-1*
10. **TOMMY MORRISON** — Jay, OK *42-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA *40-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY *24-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France *40-2 (WBC Champ)*
4. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV *21-2-1*
5. **BOBBY CZYZ** — Montgomery, NJ *42-5*
6. **THOMAS HEARNS** — Detroit, MI *53-4-1*
7. **NATE MILLER** — Philadelphia, PA *23-3*
8. **NORBERT EKASSI** — France *20-4-1*
9. **CHEMAK SALETA** — Poland *19-1*
10. **KENNY KEENE** — Emmett, ID *26-0*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *38-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany *24-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY *46-2-1*
4. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH *36-5-2*
5. **LEEONZER BARBER** — Detroit, MI *19-1*
6. **JEFF HARDING** — Australia *23-1 (WBC Champ)*
7. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *28-12*
8. **EGERTON MARCUS** — Canada *13-0*
9. **FRANK TATE** — Houston, TX *35-3*
10. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany *23-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *43-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** — England *35-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *38-0-1*
4. **STEVE LITTLE** — Reading, PA *22-13-2 (WBA Champ)*
5. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA *42-2*
6. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *25-1*
7. **TONY THORNTON** — Glassboro, NJ *32-6-1*
8. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI *23-1*
9. **RAY CLOSE** — N. Ireland *20-3-1*
10. **ANTOINE BYRD** — Los Angeles, CA *25-4-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *26-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Freeport, IL *31-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA *31-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX *35-3-1*
5. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *26-2*
6. **LAMAR PARKS** — Greeneville, SC *27-1*
7. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI *37-5*
8. **JULIAN JACKSON** — Virgin Islands *49-3*
9. **THOMAS TATE** — Houston, TX *30-3*
10. **QUINCY TAYLOR** — Dallas, TX *22-3*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **TERRY NORRIS**
   Mission Valley, CA 38-4 (WBC Champ)
2. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina 50-1 (WBA Champ)
3. **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
   Italy 57-3-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **SIMON BROWN**
   Mount Airy, MD 41-3
5. **VERNO PHILLIPS**
   New York, NY 20-5
6. **JULIO CESAR GREEN**
   Brooklyn, NY 16-1
7. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO 30-1
8. **TONY MARSHALL**
   Albany, NY 16-3-4
9. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL 25-0
10. **JAVIER CASTILLEJO**
    Spain 34-2

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA 33-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico 23-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana 26-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **BUDDY McGIRT**
   Hauppauge, NY 61-3-1
5. **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico 55-0
6. **CRISANTO ESPANA**
   N. Ireland 30-1
7. **ANTHONY JONES**
   Detroit, MI 34-5-1
8. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico 17-0-1
9. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI 30-0
10. **LARRY BARNES**
    Mt. Vernon, NY 32-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
   Warren, OH 49-3-1
2. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 90-1-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **JAKE RODRIGUEZ**
   Brentwood, NY 25-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. **JUAN COGGI**
   Argentina 66-2-2 (WBA Champ)
5. **ZACK PADILLA**
   Azusa, CA 21-1-1
6. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia 12-0
7. **CHARLES MURRAY**
   Rochester, NY 31-2
8. **DAVID KAMAU**
   Los Angeles, CA 22-0
9. **TONY LOPEZ**
   Sacramento, CA 44-4-1
10. **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
    Miami, FL 35-19-4

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 31-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **RAFAEL RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA 41-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **NAZAROV OLZUBEK**
   Japan 20-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
   Atlantic City, NJ 22-0-1
5. **JOEY GAMACHE**
   Lewiston, ME 34-1
6. **MIGUEL JULIO**
   Colombia 25-1-1
7. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Takoma Park, MD 30-1
8. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA 10-0
9. **RAMON MARCHENA**
   Mexico 50-11-2
10. **BILLY SCHWER**
    England 25-1

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA**
   San Antonio, TX 28-0-2 (WBC Champ)
2. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
   Puerto Rico 35-3 (IBF Champ)
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
   Los Angeles, CA 30-0-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **AZUMAH NELSON**
   Ghana 36-3-2
5. **CALVIN GROVE**
   Coatesville, PA 46-5
6. **GABE RUELAS**
   Arleta, CA 38-2
7. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Montebello, CA 13-0
8. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
   Argentina 45-1-1
9. **REGILIO TUUR**
   Whitestone, NY 35-3-1
10. **ED HOPSON**
    St. Louis, MO 22-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **KEVIN KELLEY**
   Flushing, NY 38-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **TOM JOHNSON**
   Detroit, MI 35-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **ELOY ROJAS**
   Venezuela 28-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **YUNG KYUN PARK**
   South Korea 25-2-1
5. **STEVE ROBINSON**
   Wales 18-9-1
6. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico 30-5-1
7. **MIGUEL ARROZAL**
   Portland, OR 39-1
8. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 30-2-2
9. **FRANCISCO SEGURA**
   Coachella, CA 24-6-1
10. **ORLANDO SOTO**
    Panama 22-1

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Las Vegas, NV 27-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **TRACY PATTERSON**
   Highland, NY 50-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ**
   Puerto Rico 39-6-3 (WBA Champ)
4. **JULIO GERVACIO**
   Puerto Rico 29-3-2
5. **WELCOME NCITA**
   South Africa 33-2
6. **JESUS SALUD**
   San Diego, CA 47-6
7. **CESAR SOTO**
   Mexico 37-5-2
8. **JUNIOR JONES**
   Brooklyn, NY 32-1
9. **MAUI DIAZ**
   San Jose, CA 26-1
10. **JAE WON CHOI**
    South Korea 18-0

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Laredo, TX 37-1-1 (IBF Champ)
2. **YASUEI YAKUSHIJI**
   Japan 21-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **JOHN MICHAEL JOHNSON**
   San Antonio, TX 18-4 (WBA Champ)
4. **ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia 25-1
5. **JUNG IL BYUN**
   South Korea 10-1
6. **RAFAEL DEL VALLE**
   Puerto Rico 15-0
7. **VICTOR RABANALES**
   Mexico 34-12-2
8. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England 12-0
9. **DAORUNG CHUWATANA**
   Thailand 49-4-2
10. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
    Las Vegas, NV 12-0

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **JULIO BORBOA**
   Mexico 23-4 (IBF Champ)
2. **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
   Japan 23-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico 30-0
4. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA**
   Japan 14-2-1 (WBC Champ)
5. **SUNG KIL MOON**
   South Korea 20-2
6. **KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM**
   Thailand 47-4
7. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
   Denmark 21-0
8. **CARLOS SALAZAR**
   Argentina 30-4-3
9. **CECILIO ESPINO**
   Huntington Park, CA 28-3-1
10. **KOTARO HAYASHI**
    Japan 12-3

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
   Japan 18-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **SAN SOW PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand 18-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN**
   Thailand 18-0 (IBF Champ)
4. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO**
   Blythe, CA 36-4-1
5. **DAVID GRIMAN**
   Venezuela 17-1
6. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. 19-1
7. **DANNY ROMERO**
   Albuquerque, NM 16-0
8. **JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA**
   Mexico 23-12-2
9. **ARTHUR JOHNSON**
   Minneapolis, MN 9-1
10. **ROBBIE REGAN**
    Wales 13-1-3

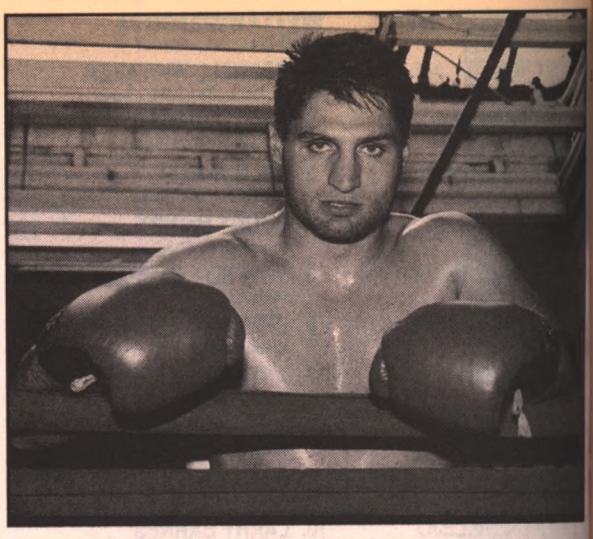
JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 38-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ 30-1
3. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela 25-3 (WBA Champ)
4. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico 38-4-3
5. **ERIC GRIFFIN**
   Jasper, TN 12-1
6. **JESUS CHONG**
   Mexico 23-5
7. **LEON SALAZAR**
   Panama 15-3-1
8. **JOSE DeJESUS**
   Puerto Rico 26-2-1
9. **FAHLAN SAKKIRIN**
   Thailand 26-2-1
10. **ROBINSON CUESTA**
    Panama 23-1

POUND FOR POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Welterweight
2. **JAMES TONEY**
   Super Middleweight
3. **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
   Bantamweight
4. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Strawweight
5. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ**
   Junior Flyweight
6. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Junior Flyweight
7. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Junior Featherweight
8. **ROY JONES**
   Middleweight
9. **GERALD McCLELLAN**
   Middleweight
10. **FRANKIE RANDALL**
    Junior Welterweight

New Faces



PRO RECORD

1992		
Feb. 7	Roosevelt Shuler, Milwaukee	KO 3
Feb. 28	Joe Jones, Countryside, IL	KO 1
March 27	Charles Presswood, Countryside	KO 1
June 20	Joey Christjohn, Chicago	KO 1
July 24	Robert Smith, Countryside	W 6
Aug. 28	James Holley, Countryside	KO 1
Oct. 3	Aaron Brown, Chicago	KO 2
Dec. 5	Young Joe Louis, Dolton, IL	KO 1
1993		
Feb. 5	Andre Crowder, Milwaukee	KO 1
March 26	Bobby Crabtree, Countryside	KO 2
May 15	K.P. Porter, Milwaukee	KO 3
June 22	Carlton West, Atlantic City	KO 2
July 10	Marion Wilson, Bushkill, PA	W 8
Sept. 4	Andre Smith, Las Vegas	KO 1
Nov. 23	Calvin Jones, Rosemont, IL	KO 2
1994		
Jan. 14	Donnell Wingfield, Mundelein, IL	KO 1
March 16	Larry Davis, Chicago	KO 1
May 6	Terry Davis, Atlantic City	KO 1
June 18	Jesse Shelby, Chicago	KO 2

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	19	19	0	0	17

Andrew Golota

Heavyweight

By Robert Cassidy

The way Lou Duva describes it, Andrew Golota is among the last of a disappearing breed. He is a fighter molded in the traditions of an empire that produced a formidable array of athletes. And while the walls of communism have all but crumbled, Golota has retained, and remained loyal to, the work ethic and daily regimen that made him one of the Eastern Bloc's most dangerous fighters.

A Polish national who now lives and trains in Chicago, Golota is driving through the heavyweight division with the stoic, remorseless style that was the trademark, at least in the West's perception, of all Communist athletes.

"I like his killer instinct and his ability to want to fight," said Duva. "He's mean in the ring. He just wants to fight. If he had blond hair, he'd be Ivan Drago."

Golota's instincts were quite apparent during his amateur career in Eastern Europe. He compiled a 121-10 record while winning seven national heavyweight titles. He fared well internationally, too, winning a silver medal at the 1985 junior world championships, a gold at the 1986 junior European championships, and a bronze in the 201-pound division at the 1988 Olympics. He has displayed the same intensity as a pro in the USA.

Golota's journey to this country was not fraught with adventure or a Hollywood brand of danger. One year after he won the bronze in Seoul, political reform began to reshape Poland into a democracy. Still, there was no professional boxing, so Golota, married to a Pole who was living in the U.S., decided to leave in 1991.

"Always, I wanted to fight in professional boxing," said Golota, who continues to struggle with his new language. "There wasn't any professional boxing in Poland, and there isn't any now."

He came through Canada first and was introduced to Dick Trindle, a U.S. Customs agent who doubles as an international boxing referee. Trindle sent Golota to Bob O'Donnell and Danny McCollum at the Windy City Gym in Chicago.

"He came in and right away you could see the strength, the unusual speed for a man his size, and a desire to get better," said O'Donnell, who co-manages Golota with McCollum. "We were sold on his work ethic. And then [promoter and former world heavyweight champion] Ernie Terrell told us we had a real blue-chipper."

Golota was much harder sell to the rest of the country. "I was pondering what to do," said O'Donnell. "Cedric Kushner wasn't interested. Neither was Bobby Goodman. And Ron Katz brushed us off."

Then, in 1993, Duva called to invite Golota to spar with Michael Moorer. O'Donnell had sent Duva a tape, and Capt. Lou fell in love.

"He has desire," said Duva. "He's the real

(Continued on page 56)

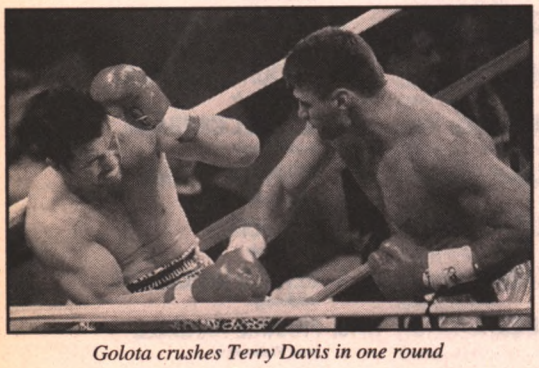


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Golota crushes Terry Davis in one round

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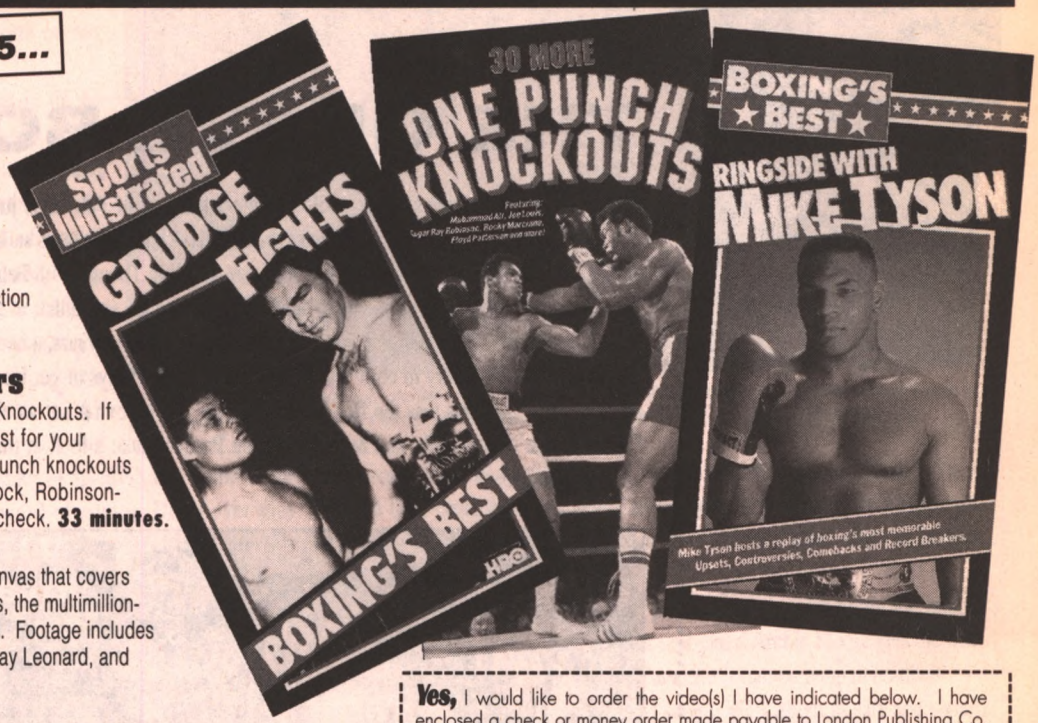

RUDGE FIGHTS
he greatest grudge fights in boxing history e presented in this non-stop action video. ee Jack Dempsey try to regain the title from ene Tunney and Joe Louis seek revenge gainst Max Schmeling. Watch Joe Walcott ttle Ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano in ic wars, the Ali Frazier trilogy, plus a collection rare footage that recounts boxing's most emorable bouts. **58 minutes.**

ORE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
he exciting followup to Great One-Punch Knockouts. If u like knockout action, this video is a must for your llection. You'll see these fantastic one-punch knockouts d many more: Ali-Liston II, Louis-Braddock, Robinson-mer, Patterson-Johansson II, Louis-Paycheck. **33 minutes.**

NGSIDE WITH MIKE TYSON
ke Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers e main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion-lar gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes rry Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and uch more. **44 minutes.**

E MIDDLEWEIGHTS
e most skillful and devastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this -moving video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel rdan. Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by rt Gowdy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

XING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS
tch wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each ision and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive ge footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; elterweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, rlos Monzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie re; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

E HEAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"
e biggest draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores ng's most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's ge victory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. **59 minutes.**

EAT ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
e got a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, luding Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob simmons, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many re. **30 minutes.**

E HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS
rt Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll e challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. u Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene ney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that ade him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

YSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS
n Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds wn insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown ore him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe is, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

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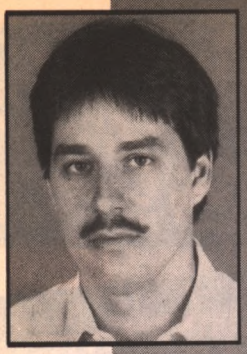


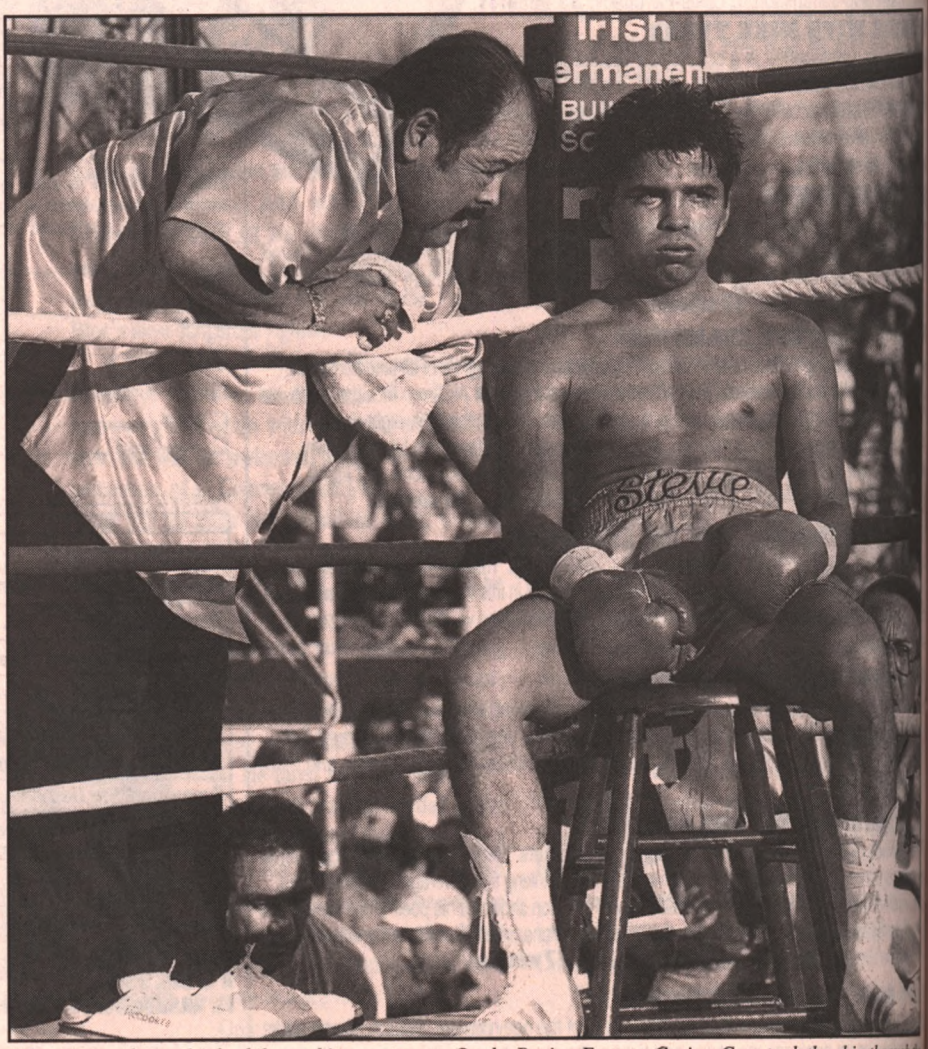
By Jeff Ryan

Ryan Out Loud

THE GLOVE BOAT

The brochure arrived in the mail on the coldest day of February, just about the time my cabin fever was making me delirious. The offer sounded great: six days and five nights sailing the Caribbean on a Boxing Fantasy Cruise. Banana daiquiris with Chiquita Gonzalez. Circling Tobago with Felix Trinidad. All the leather you can eat. And the chance to make waves with a bunch of guys who are specialists at it.

It's about time the Sweet Science got with the program. For years, a baseball fan has been able to mortgage his house for the opportunity to coax war stories out of Willie Mays or get Ken Griffey Jr. to sign a Speedo on board the S.S. Pine Tar. This was the first time, however, that a boxing nut would be able to drink seven 7-and-7s, get Carlos Zarate's autograph, and have Dr. Ferdie Pacheco take a look at that troublesome varicose vein all in the same afternoon.



Capt. Cruz orders a drink while catching some rays. On the Boxing Fantasy Cruise, Cruz took the ship through the Bermuda Triangle in an effort to make the WBA, WBC, and IBF disappear.

Deciding to take the plunge, so to speak, I booked a tour on Three-Ring Circus Cruise Lines, the aptly named boxing equivalent of Carnival. The Lou-sitania—named after everyone's favorite Nova—set sail from Miami with a capacity crowd on board. As the ship's orchestra played the theme from *seaQuest DSV*, Vinny Pazienza broke a bottle of Gallo burgundy on the hull and we were on our way ...

Day One—sailing the high seas: Captain of the cruise ship is former featherweight king Stevie Cruise (or do I have that backward?), who won a 10-round split decision over Skipper Kelp to land the job. At the orientation meeting, the captain's staff informs us of the ship's rules: no rabbit-punching, the three-knockdown rule is in effect, and no saving by the bell.

The cabins are so small, even the strawweights are getting claustrophobic. The food is fantastic, though, and there is plenty to do. My favorite game is "Ali Shuffle-board." You have to dance before each shot and bellow, "I am the greatest shuffleboarder of all-tiiiiime!" Some of the other activities aren't as much fun. A word of advice: Don't ever play Scrabble with Phichit Sithbangprachan. And I'm still sore from this morning's action in the pool. Never again will I join Eusebio Pedroza for a game of water bolo.

Day Two—docking in Jamaica: When mechanical problems make docking nearly impossible, Muhammad Ali volunteers to hit the ship with his "mysterious anchor punch," the one he used to kayo Sonny Liston. Though everyone swears Ali's right hand never connects with the ship, the vessel does dock at Montego Bay without further difficulty.

Things are really starting to liven up here. At one point, we see Jesse Ferguson standing at the edge of the pool, surveying the water in the deep end, and shouting at Ray Mercer, "If I told you once, I've told you a thousand times: I'm not taking a dive!"

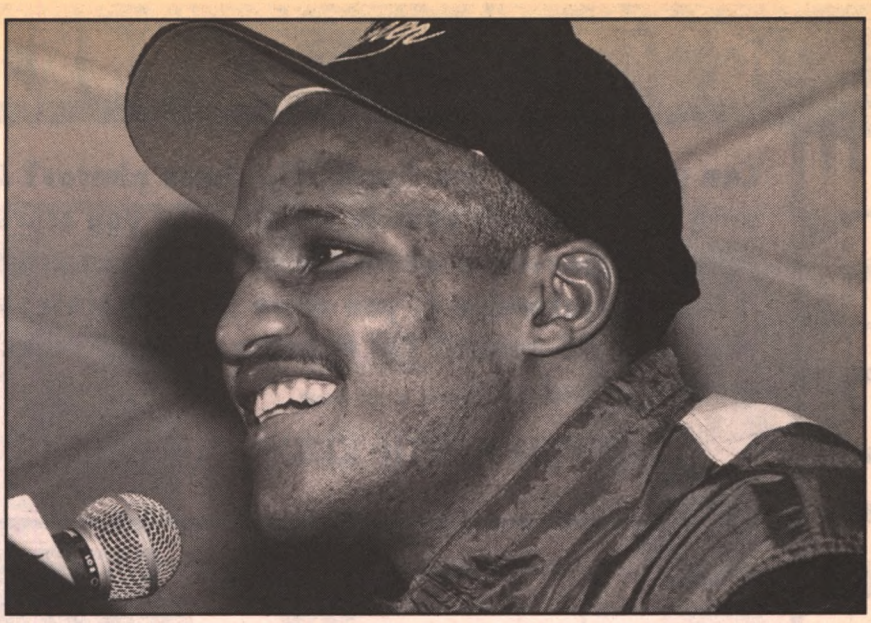
Day Three—back on the high seas: The weather starts getting rough, the not-so-tiny ship is tossed, and if not for the courage of a fearless Cruz, the Lou-sitania will be lost. The Lou-sitania will be lost ...

The storm is brutal. The seas are choppy. The water is foamier than "Bulldog" Scotty Olson's mouth before his rabies shots. As if our stomachs aren't upset enough, we nearly experience the human Dramamine of athletic competition when Riddick Bowe and George Foreman have to be separated at the buffet line after they start fighting over the last piece of coconut-custard pie. They say they'll settle their dispute in a ring set up on the deck sometime before we return home.

Anchors aweigh-in!

Day Four—docking in St. Thomas: Far be it for me to call boxers dumb, but I warn a couple of them who are leaning over the side of the ship that if they aren't careful, they could end up in Davy Jones' locker. Within minutes, they're running around the ship, telling everyone The Monkees are the night's entertainment.

Day Five—on the high seas yet again: The most regrettable segment of the trip comes when the fighters show off their acting skills in a variety of nautical-theme skits. Ray Leonard isn't very convincing in his role as Capt. Queeg in *Sugar Cane Mutiny*, especially after he blows his biggest line by barking, "Somebody pilfered the boysenberries!" The *McHale's Navy* sketch isn't much better because Tommy Morrison, thinking he's supposed to be playing *Kevin* McHale, shows up in a Boston Celtics uniform instead of a sailor suit.



In the cruise's talent competition, Moorer was a success as a stand-up comic, at least partly because if an audience member didn't laugh at his jokes, he dropped him with a straight left to the jaw.

At the end of the evening, the guests receive their honorary ranks. Evander Holyfield is anointed seaman first-class, Archie Moore gets the title of seaman second-class, and Hector Camacho is named seaman no-class.

Day Six—back in Miami, safe and sound: Well, about as safe and sound as you can be in Miami when you're an unarmed tourist whose bullet-proof vest is at the dry cleaners.

Looking back on the past five days, it has been, well, an experience. Capt. Cruz decided to travel through the Bermuda Triangle on the way home in an attempt to make the WBA, WBC, and IBF disappear, but it didn't work. Bowe and Foreman never did get it on because Larry Holmes stole the canvas, used it for the sail of a makeshift boat, and jumped ship to go fishing. Pernell Whitaker won the limbo contest, and five round-card girls from the Great Western Forum tied for first in the bimbo contest.

Simon Brown was the champ at Simon Sez, Razor Ruddock captured the cruise tennis tournament, and in the talent competition, Leon Spinks' rendition of "Play That Funky Music, White Boy" just edged out the yuk-a-second stand-up comedy routine of Michael Moorer. Jung Il Byun's version of the Blues Brothers classic, "Seoul Man," earned him third place. In fourth was a singing group consisting of James Toney, Orlando Canizales, and two backup singers. The group's name: Toney, Orlando, & Dawn.

As for me, I didn't win anything, and I'm still seasick as a dog. Must have been the rough waves. Or a bad clam from yesterday's lunch. Or maybe the fact that I spent more time on the deck than Terry Norris. Oh, well, at least Don Lalonde brought along that sunscreen with an SPF of 147, so I didn't get burned. And I made some new friends. As a matter of fact, Bob Arum is coming over for a little Cajun food and a game of basketball next weekend.

Henceforth, however, you're not going to see me on anymore of these boxing fantasy cruises. True, I always hoped that my ship would come in one day, but this wasn't exactly what I had in mind. ■

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

PHOTO QUIZ TEST

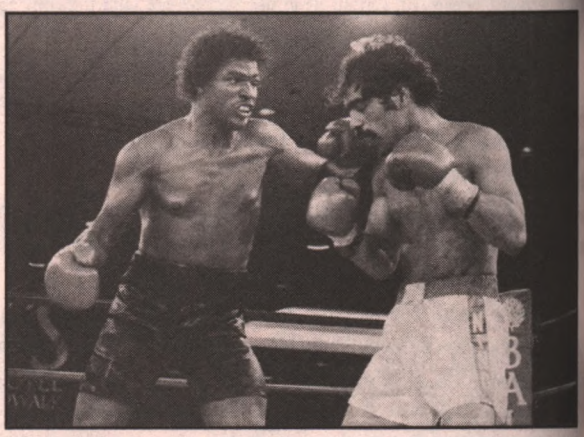
Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: KEEPING UP WITH JONES, JOHNSON, AND SMITH

1

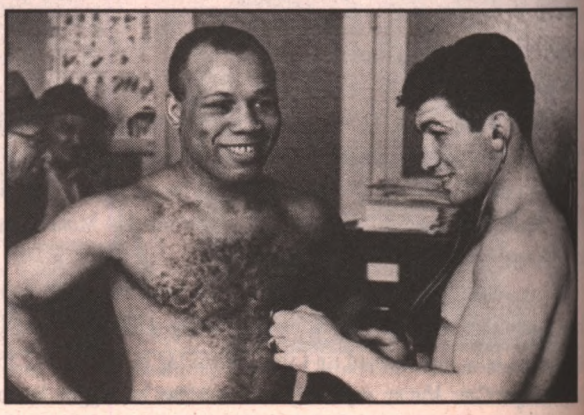
On the left is trainer Murphy Griffith. His rather tall protege never lost a fight as a pro. That's about the nicest thing we can say about his short-lived boxing career.

2



The fighter on the left was a clubfighting middleweight who was best-known for entering the ring in a casket—when the local commission would allow him to do so.

3

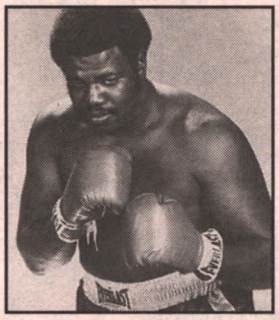


Joe DeNucci needn't have worried—his opponent, a top middleweight of the '50s, had a huge heart. He had talent, too, and beat, among others, Sugar Ray Robinson.

YOUR BOXING IQ

4

If they ranked heavyweights by the pound, this contender would have been near-unbeatable. He was good enough to secure a try at the world title in 1980.

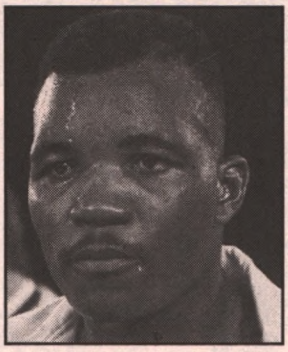


5

This junior welterweight, a former world champion, remains active. He won a world title in 1985, but failed to make a successful defense.

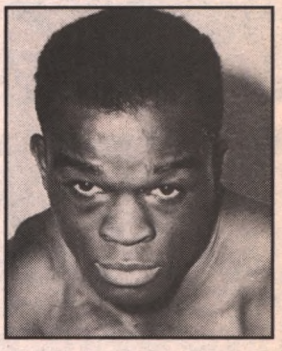
6

You have to be pretty good to knock down James Toney, which this middleweight did during their extremely competitive showdown in June 1991.



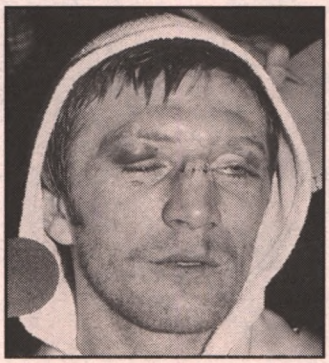
7

This former world lightweight champion won the title, made one successful defense, then lost his next 11 fights and retired.



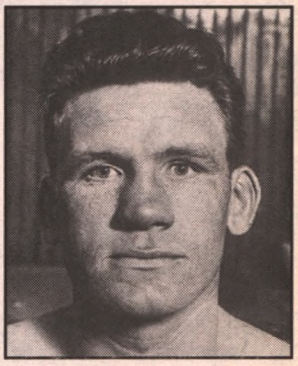
8

And the fight lasted only four rounds! This welterweight from the other side of the pond secured three chances at the world title but couldn't win the big one.



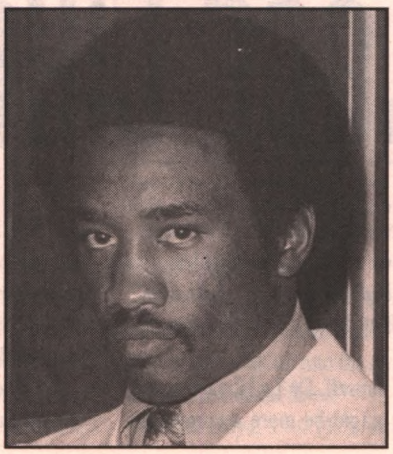
9

This heavyweight was among the original Great White Hopes. He traded with Georges Carpentier, Sam Langford, and Jack Dempsey, and was famous for his mysteriously named "Occipital Punch."



10

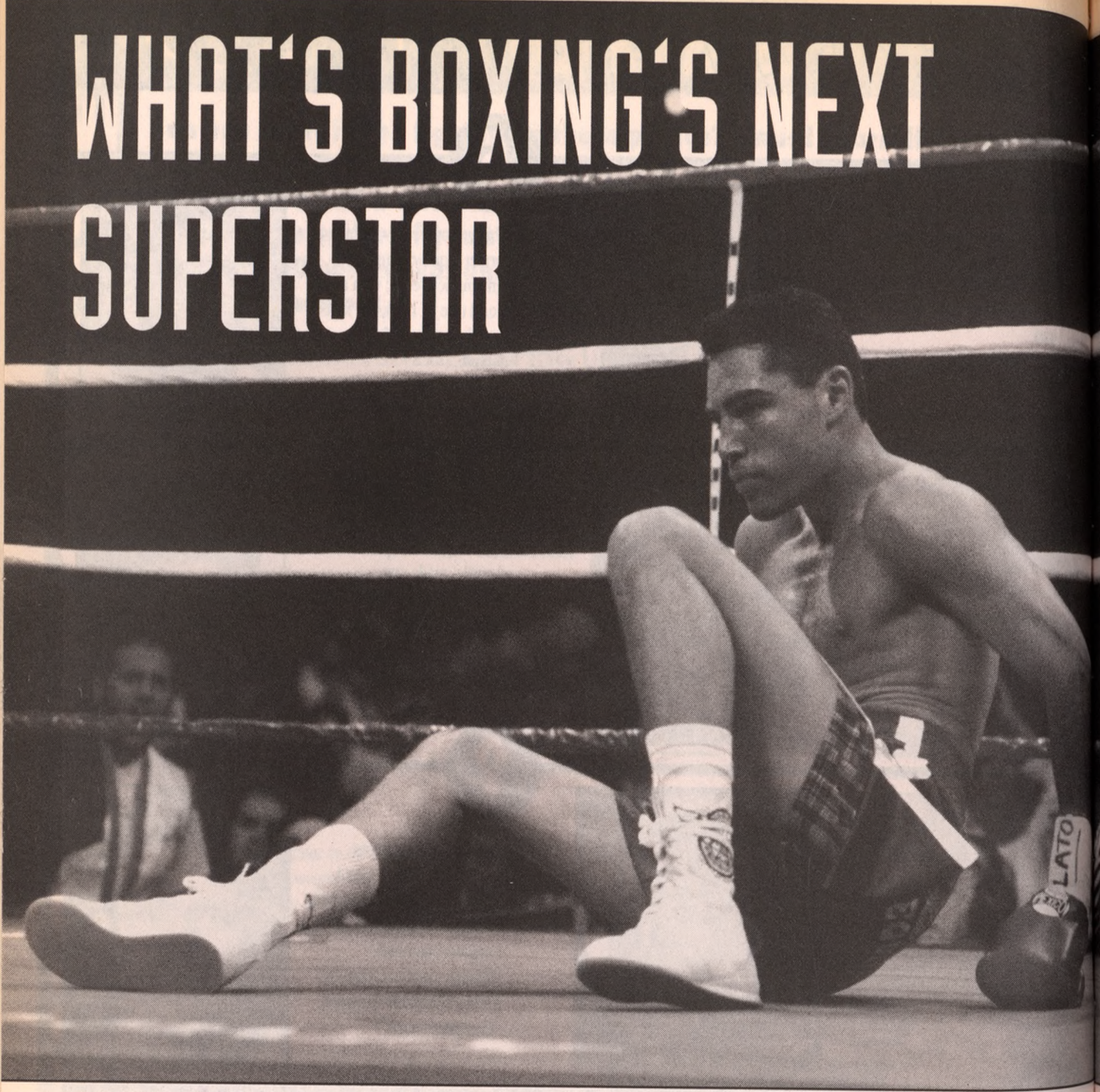
This top-10 heavyweight was a California State champion. Any hopes he had of winning a world title, however, were shattered by Ernie Shavers, who kayoed him in two rounds.

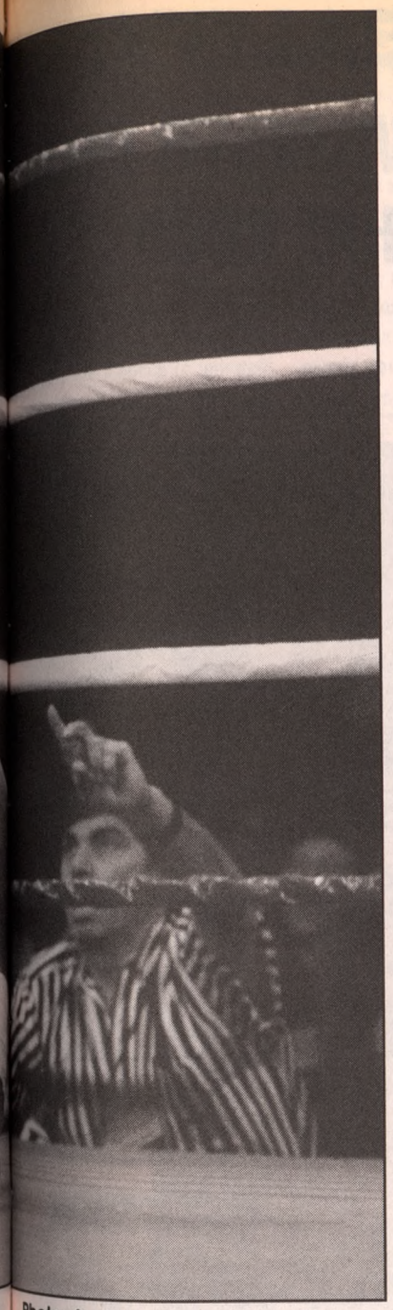


ANSWERS:

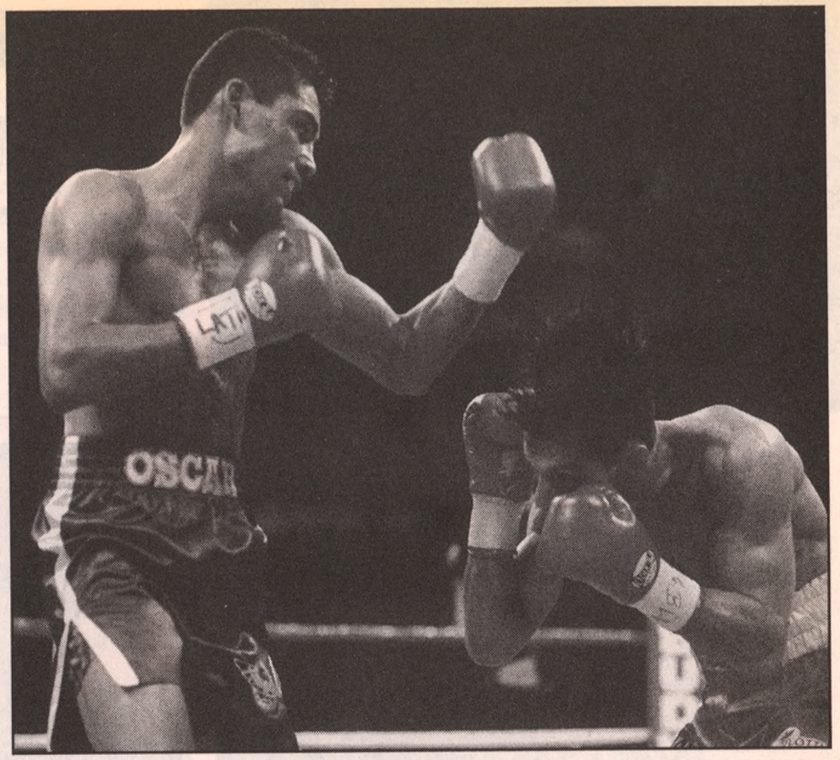
1) Ed "Too Tall" Jones
2) Vampire Johnson
3) Ralph "Tiger" Jones
4) Leroy Jones
5) Lonnie Smith
6) Reggie Johnson
7) Bud Smith
8) Colin Jones
9) Gunboat Smith
10) Howard Smith

WHAT'S BOXING'S NEXT SUPERSTAR DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

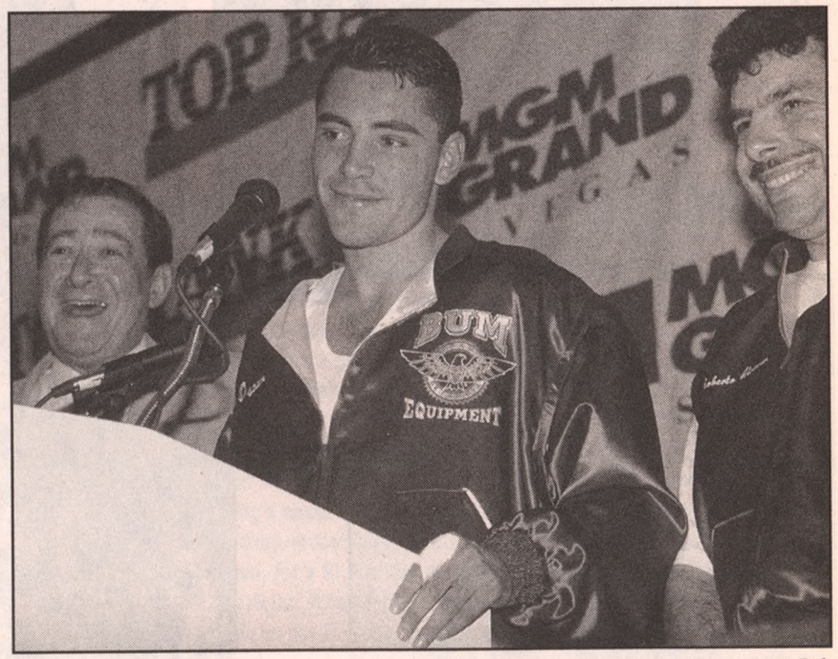




Photos by Tom Casino



As soon as he picked himself up off the floor, De La Hoya established his distance and punished Campanella with a variety of blows. The Italian lasted until round three.



After "The Golden Boy's" 13th consecutive victory, Team De La Hoya, which includes promoter Bob Arum and trainer Robert Alcazar, couldn't hide its happiness. Or was it relief?

By Steve Farhood

There was no need for a bank of spotlights; during Oscar De La Hoya's walk to the ring, his smile lit up the MGM Grand's Garden Arena. He looked left, then right, and wherever his wide eyes darted, people stood and screamed for him. All that was missing was the ticker tape. And remember, this was Las Vegas, not "The Golden Boy's" native Los Angeles.

"It's all like a Hollywood movie right now," said Jack Welsh, THE RING's Las Vegas correspondent.

Unable to help himself, De La Hoya was still smiling—*beaming* might be more accurate—as he climbed through the ropes. In the opposite corner stood a junior lightweight from Crotone, Italy, named Giorgio Campanella. He was 20-0 (13). Judging by De La Hoya's demeanor, the visitor might as well have been 0-20.

No one knew much about Campanella. ("Tough guy; he'll make Oscar fight," said someone from Top Rank, who promoted the bout.) De La Hoya learned something exactly 14 seconds into the fight, when the Italian overcame a seven-inch reach disadvantage by stepping inside and connecting with a cannonball of a hook. *Boom!* For the second time in three fights, De La Hoya was flat on the canvas in the first round. Unlike the knockdown he had suffered against Narciso Valenzuela in October, however, this was legitimate trouble. Campanella's punch had landed flush, and while De La Hoya rose at referee Joe Cortez' count of three, there were more than 2½ minutes to negotiate.

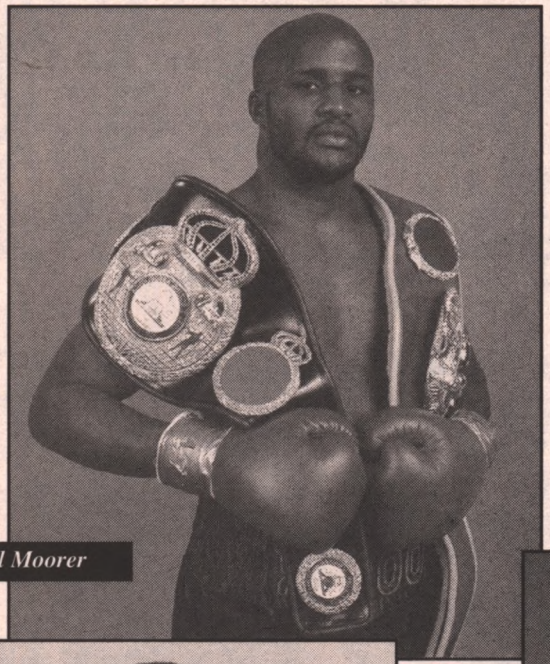
"The other knockdown [against Valenzuela] was a flash knockdown," said Welsh. "But this time his legs went up into the air and his eyes had a certain look about them."

De La Hoya, 13-0 (12), instinctively fought back, especially after Campanella unceremoniously flung him to the floor. With about a minute remaining, the 5'11" boxer-puncher began to jab and establish some distance. When he returned to the corner, his trainer, Robert Alcazar, hit him

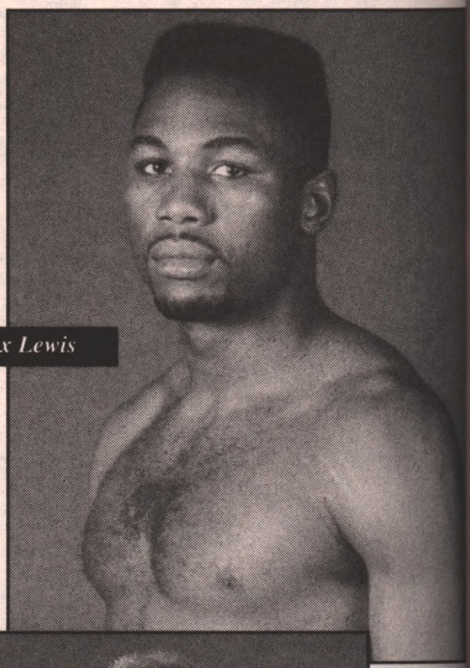
(Continued on page 55)

PERCEPTION:
THE HEAVYWEIGHTS OF TODAY ARE INFERIOR

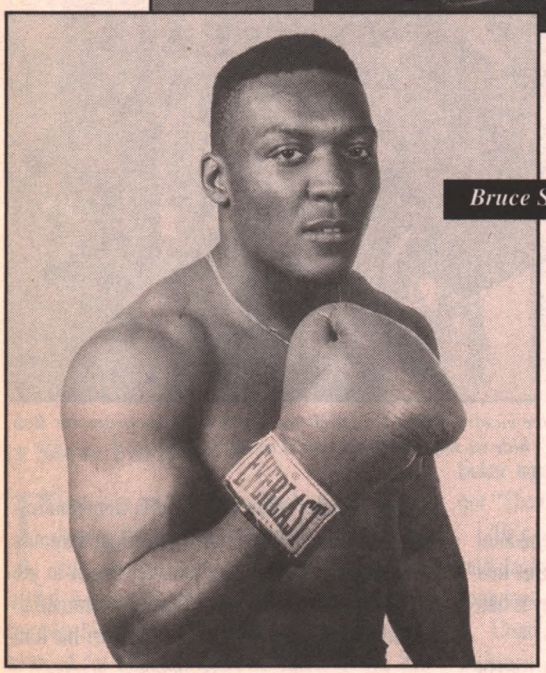
REALITY:
THEY'VE NEVER BEEN THAT GOOD



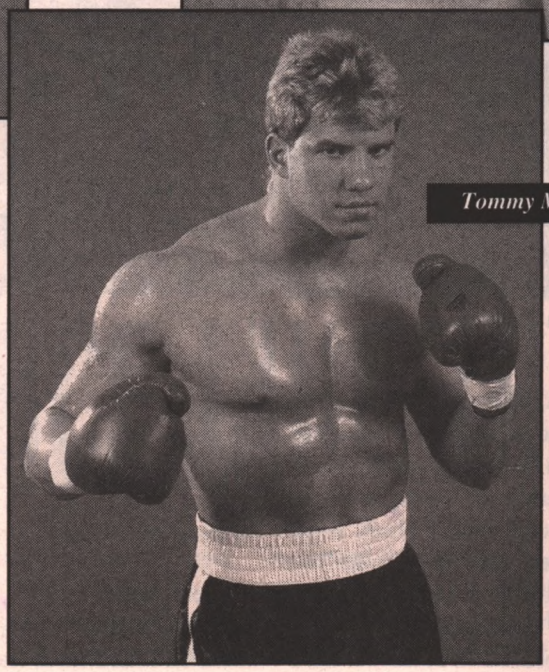
Michael Moorer



Lennox Lewis



Bruce Seldon



Tommy Morrison

Nigel Collins

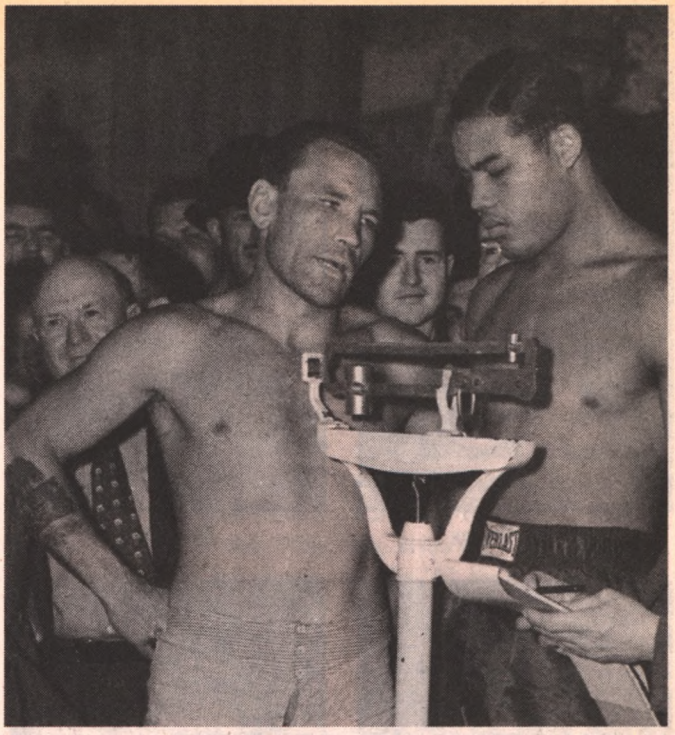
The heavyweight division stinks worse than an outhouse in August. The champion is a bum who isn't worthy of being mentioned in the same breath as his illustrious predecessors. The top contenders? Don't make me laugh. They're nothing but a sorry collection of inept bumblers and washed-up never-wases. And the so-called prospects are a bunch of untested, unprotected wannabes. If things get any worse, boxing will go the way of the brontosaurus.

Sound familiar? Well, it should. Not only is this the kind of stuff boxing fans are saying today, it's also been their sentiment since the turn of the century. Except for a couple of golden moments in heavyweight history (more about them later), boxing's premier weight class has always suffered from a dearth of talent, or at least what is *perceived* as a dearth of talent.

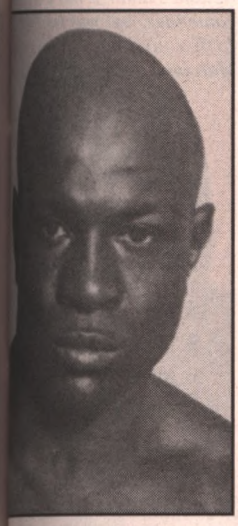
That's not to say all the grumbling and complaining is unwarranted. Compared to most of the other divisions, the heavyweight talent pool is usually on the shallow side. But human nature being what it is, people have a tendency to think things were better in the good old days. It ain't necessarily so.

"You could count the heavyweights of even ordinary ability on the fingers of one hand when I quit," James J. Jeffries said upon retiring as undefeated, undisputed heavyweight champion in 1905.

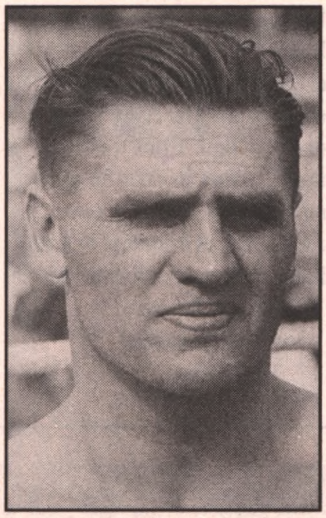
And you know what? The old "Boilermaker" was right. Jeffries had fought himself out of worthwhile opponents—*white* opponents, anyway. He left in his wake the weakest flock of sad sacks to ever represent the sport's supreme division. If you think Oliver McCall, Tommy Morrison, and Bruce Seldon are bad, you should have seen these guys.



Jack Roper seems to be showing heavyweight champion Joe Louis a bit of attitude at their weigh-in in April 1939. At the fight, Louis showed Roper a bit of fist, ending matters in the first round.



George Godfrey



Phil Scott

Young Stribling

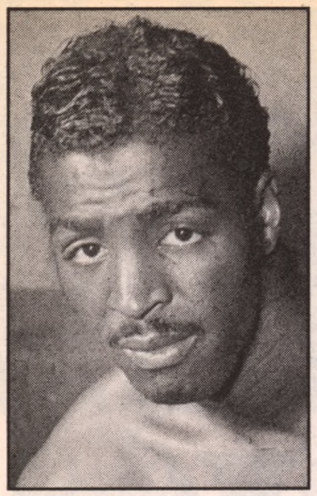
Otto Von Porat

Desperate for somebody, *anybody*, to keep the meter running after Jeffries retired to his alfalfa farm, promoters in Nevada matched former light heavyweight champion Jack Root and mediocre Marvin Hart for the vacant title. In order to bring a veneer of authenticity to the dubious proceedings, Jeffries was hired, for a $1,000 fee, to referee the fight. When Jeff stopped the fight in the 20th round and raised Hart's arm, boxing plunged to a depth unparalleled since the 1770s, when bare-knuckle champions Bill Darts, Harry Sellers, and Duggan Ferns (you remember those guys, right?) were involved in a series of scandalous fixes.

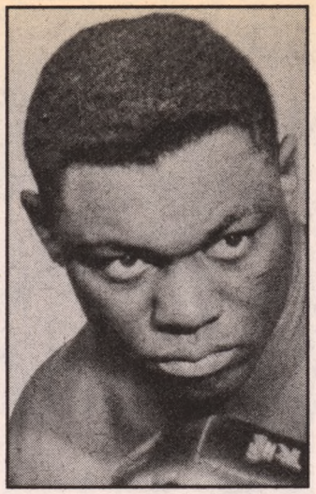
Boxing usually bottoms out when a dominant champion like Jeffries retires or falls victim to Father Time. It's one of the unwritten laws of physics. It happened again when Gene Tunney beat Jack Dempsey twice, then promptly hung up his gloves after dispatching hapless Tom Heeney in July 1928. If you want to know exactly how bad things were by the time 1929 rolled around, take a glance at THE RING's heavyweight ratings in the January issue:

1. Young Stribling
2. George Godfrey
3. Paulino Uzcudun
4. Jack Sharkey
5. Knute Hanson
6. Jim Maloney
7. Johnny Risko
8. Phil Scott
9. Tom Heeney
10. Otto Von Porat

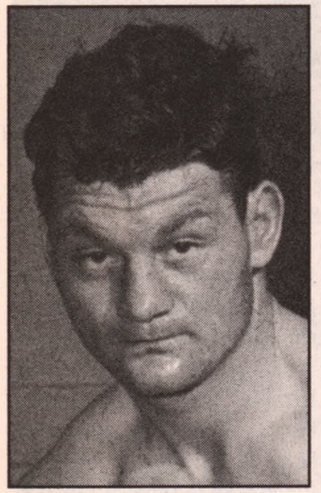
Now there's a stellar troupe for you. Stribling, a beloved fighter in the South, was a light heavyweight who made his reputation by touring the boon docks and knocking out his chauffeur. Godfrey, a decent fighter, was black and therefore ineligible for serious title fight consideration. Uzcudun, the chunky Basque wood-



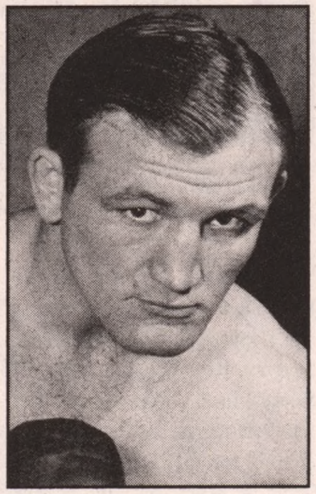
Lee Q. Murray



Elmer Ray



Bruce Woodcock



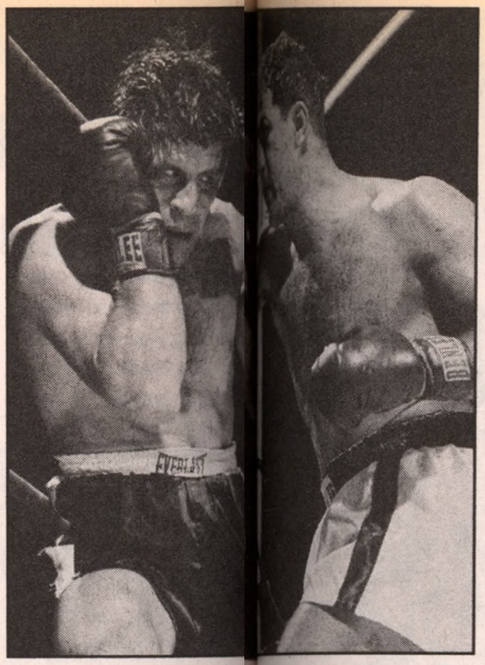
Joe Baksi

chopper, had already been beaten by Godfrey, and would later lose to such luminaries as Primo Carnera and King Levinsky. In 1935, he was crushed by Joe Louis.

Sharkey, of course, was eventually matched with Max Schmeling (mysteriously missing from the rankings) for the vacant title. And though "The Boston Gob" was a good fighter, his temperament prevented him from ever realizing his full potential. Outside of Risko, the rest of the top 10 makes Joe Hipp look like a hall of famer.

But the heavyweights are a resilient lot, and following a series of false starts and disappointments, Louis emerged as the next dominant champion. Having a great fighter on the throne leads to a different kind of dilemma, especially when he lasts as long as "The Brown Bomber." By the time Louis was discharged from the Army at the end of World War II, even the Bum of the Month Club was getting ready to close its door for want of members. The cycle had come full-circle again, as evidenced by Louis' list of challengers. From the March 1946 issue of THE RING:

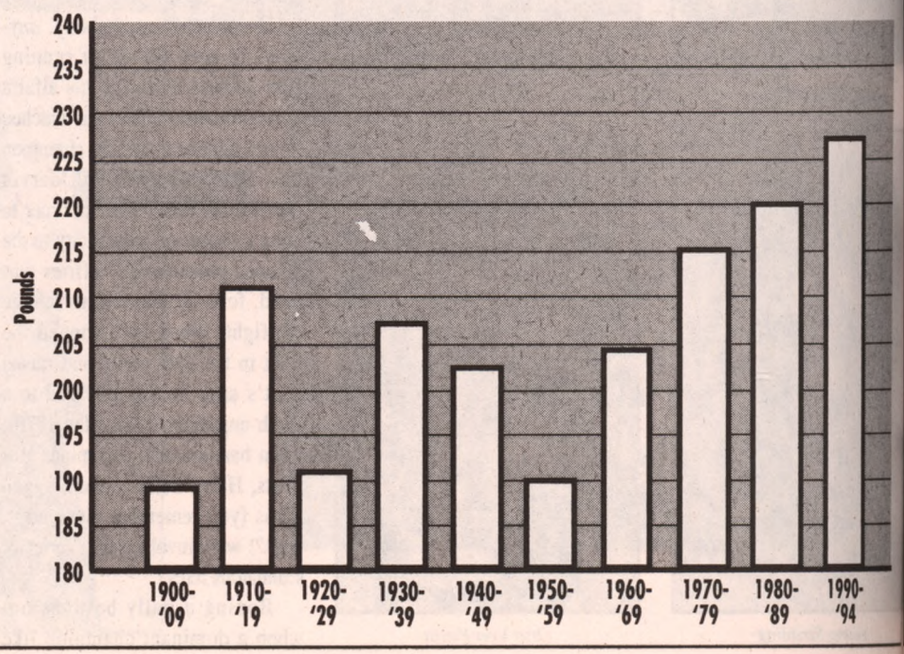
1. Tami Mauriello
2. Billy Conn
3. Elmer Ray
4. Bruce Woodcock
5. Jersey Joe Walcott
6. Curtis Sheppard
7. Joey Maxim
8. Joe Baksi
9. Lee Q. Murray
10. Melino Bettina

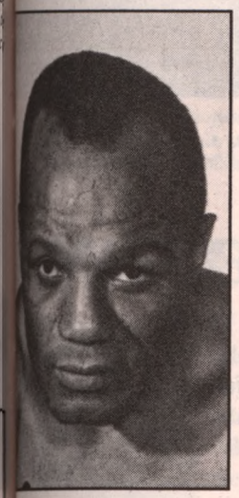


Roland LaStarza was a legitima contender, but was kayoed in t 11th round by champion Roc Marciano in September 1953.

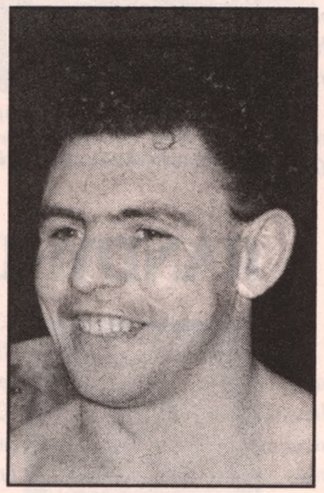
IS BIGGER ALSO BETTER?

During any heavyweight debate, you can count on someone to make the following point: "Remember, Rocky Marciano would be a cruiserweight today." The evolution of the species guarantees that heavyweights are bigger than ever. The following graph, which shows the average weights of all heavyweight title fight contestants since 1900, details the growth.

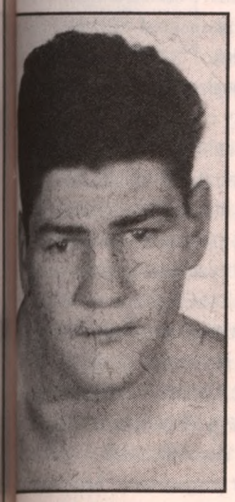




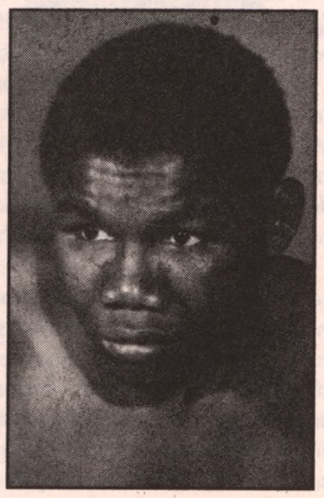
Jersey Joe Walcott



Johnny Williams



Rex Layne



Jimmy Bivins

This was another mixed bag. Conn had already been stopped by Louis in their 1941 classic and would fall again later in '46. Mauriello also got his shot that year and lasted less than a round. Maxim, like Conn, was a refugee from the light heavyweight division. Ditto Bettina. "Violent" Ray, "Hatchet Man" Sheppard, and Murray were a trio of talented black fighters who were forced to burn themselves out by fighting one another. (Interestingly, Louis seldom defended against boxers of his own race; only three of his 25 defenses came against blacks.) Woodcock was British (nuff said), and Baksi was an oversized lug of inconsequential ability. That left Walcott, who managed to survive the round-robin between black contenders in one piece, as the lone legitimate threat.

A couple of years later, with a rapidly aging Louis still ruling the heavyweights, THE RING's Daniel M. Daniel was moved to write, "The heavyweight division faces an incredible low. Louis is fading, Walcott is no terror, and the rest of the field is battle-worn and uninspiring." Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

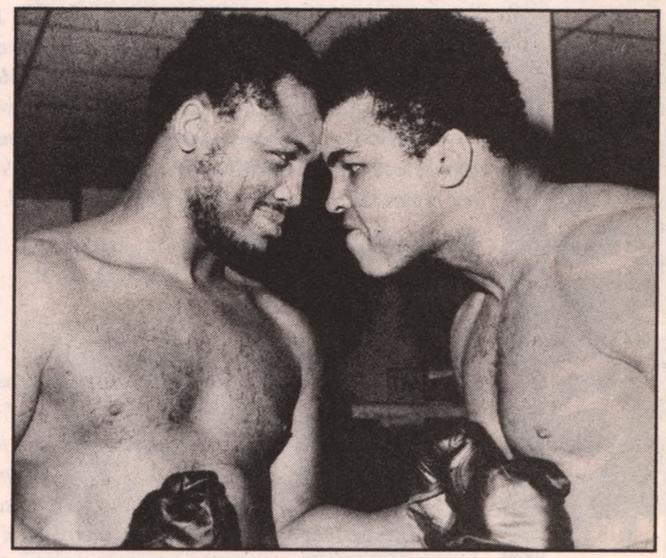
It took a few years, but Rocky Marciano finally pulled the division out of the doldrums that followed Louis' demise. The same pattern repeated itself: By the time "The Brockton Blockbuster" had slugged his way through the ranks and won the title, what was left of the division looked like a picked-over carcass. In fact, the most frequently heard knock on The Rock is that he defended the title only against old men and tomato cans. Hey, don't blame Marciano. Look what he had to choose from as of the March 1952 ratings:

1. Jersey Joe Walcott
2. Ezzard Charles
3. Rex Layne
4. Roland LaStarza
5. Jimmy Bivins
6. Clarence Henry
7. Coley Wallace
8. Johnny Williams
9. Heinz Neuhaus
10. Karel Sys

Same old story. Walcott held down the top spot on the strength of his gallant struggle in losing the title to Marciano, but when they met again in June '52, the division's elder statesman meekly folded in the first round. Former champion Charles and the game LaStarza both got a crack at the title and failed, though Charles did well enough to earn a rematch. After that, the field was mainly comprised of non-entities. Bivins was the lone exception, but by '52, the once formidable fighter was way past his prime.

And so it goes. Like all of history, boxing repeats itself again and again. After the Ali era there was a three-way split of the title that eventually created what has become known as "The Lost Generation Of Heavyweights," a shoddy assembly of flawed and inconsistent fighters that included John Tate, Mike Weaver, Gerrie Coetzee, Greg Page, Tim Witherspoon, Pinklon Thomas, and Tony Tubbs. Ultimately, it took Mike Tyson to clean up the mess, but as is always the

(Continued on page 57)



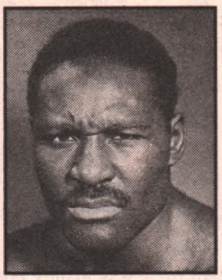
The heavyweights haven't always been thin. In the '70s, Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali led an outstanding pack of big men. The division was never deeper or stronger. Frazier and Ali fought three times, with Ali winning twice.

BATTLE of the LEGENDS

Heavyweights

Ezzard Charles

Cincinnati, Ohio
Career: 1940-1959
96-25-1 with 58 kayos



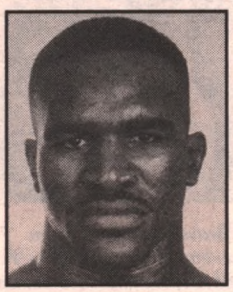
Ironically, Charles, one of the greatest light heavyweights in history, is best remembered for his successes and failures as a heavyweight. A hard-hitting master boxer at 160, and then 175 pounds, he beat, among others, Teddy Yarosz, Charley Burley, Joey Maxim, Archie Moore, Jimmy Bivins, and Lloyd Marshall. However, he never secured a well-earned title shot at light heavyweight.

In the late-'40s, "The Cincinnati Cobra" jumped to heavyweight (he stood 6-foot and fought at 180-185 pounds) and on June 22, 1949, won the vacant heavyweight title, outpointing Jersey Joe Walcott. He made eight successful defenses, including a 1950 decision over a comebacking Joe Louis, before being kayoed by Walcott in July 1951. He fought admirably in a pair of 1954 tries at champion Rocky Marciano, but lost first on points, and then by eighth-round kayo.

From 1955 to 1959, Charles fought 23 times, losing more than he won. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1970, and in May 1975, died of Lou Gehrig's Disease at age 53.

Evander Holyfield

Atlanta, Georgia
Career: 1984-1994
30-2 with 22 kayos



A loser by disqualification at the 1984 Olympics, Holyfield was an instant winner as a pro. Reigning as a unified champion in two divisions, he earned a record $100-million. Not bad for a blown-up light heavyweight with an uninspiring punch and an often porous defense.

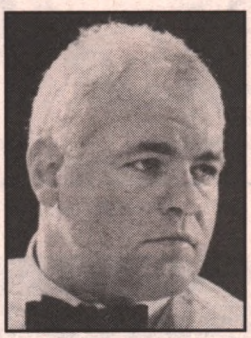
Holyfield turned pro at light heavy, then jumped to cruiserweight after only four bouts. Fighting for the WBA title in his 12th fight, he dethroned Dwight Qawi in a brutal 15-round war in July 1986. Over the next two years he made five defenses, added the IBF and WBC titles, and established himself as the best cruiser in the division's 15-year history.

A unique physical specimen, "The Real Deal" bulked up to heavyweight in 1988, and, in October 1990, kayoed Buster Douglas to become undisputed world champion. While a defense against Mike Tyson never materialized, Holyfield made three successful defenses before losing the title to, and then regaining it from, Riddick Bowe. In April, Holyfield, 31, lost a close decision to Michael Moorer and then retired because of a congenital heart condition.

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of the Legends," the editors of THE RING *play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.*

While Charles was hardly a big puncher, his boxing ability enabled him to land with precision, as Coley Wallace discovered in December 1953. Charles won by 10th-round kayo.

RANDY NEUMANN

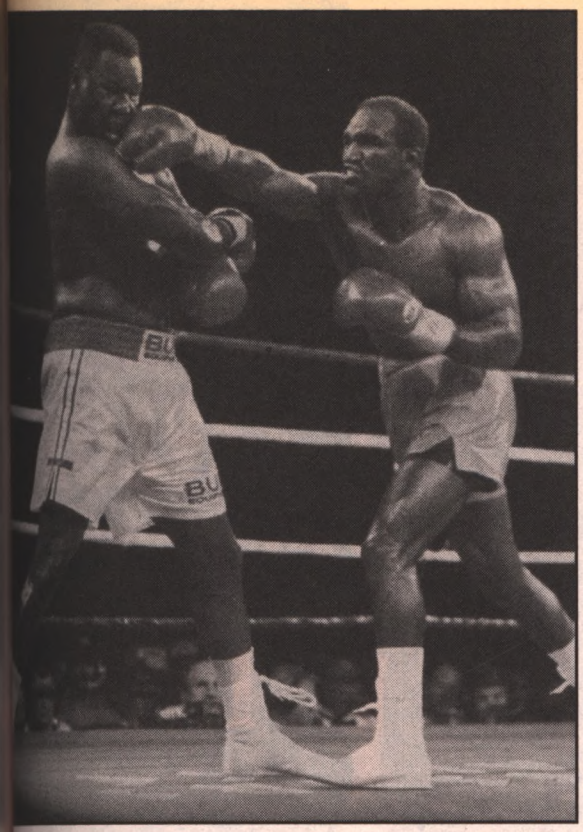


This is a good matchup; both fighters were light heavyweights before they fought at heavyweight. Charles was one of the most underrated heavyweight champions of all-time because he fought in the shadow of Joe Louis. He was a cruiser fighter, a beefed-up light heavyweight. He was a good boxer and puncher. He knocked out Gus Lesnevich, who was a tough old geezer.

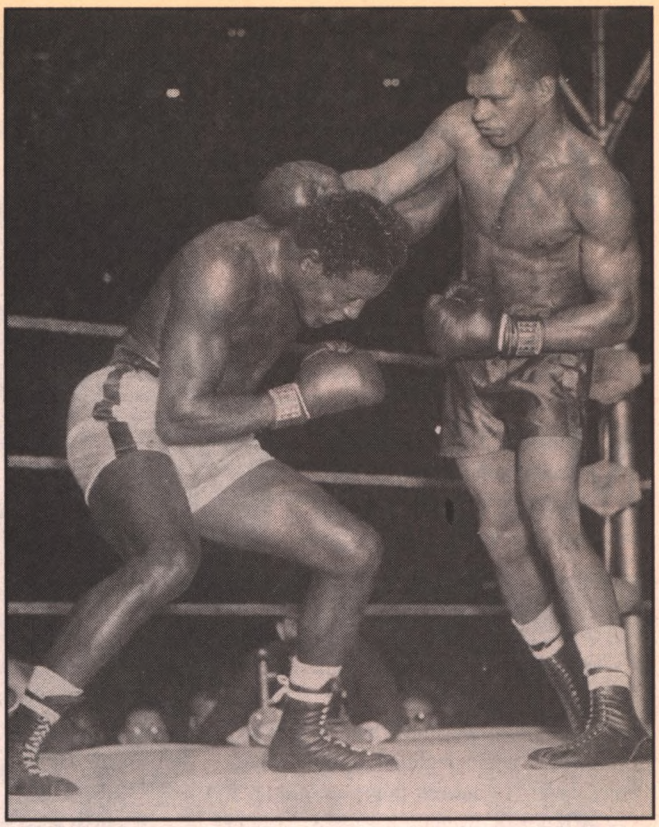
Holyfield was a tremendously conditioned fighter and a pretty fair boxer, but not what you would call clever. He was kind of methodical, a walk-in fighter who, if you hit him with a couple of punches, would come right back at you. Holyfield fought about 15 pounds heavier than Charles, but you can almost eliminate the size difference; Holyfield got bigger because he fought bigger guys. He wouldn't have had to bulk up against Charles.

Charles had three times as many bouts as Holyfield, and that would give him a lot more ink in the well to dip into. Holyfield would walk in and try to muscle Charles, but Charles could move around. Determination was great with both. Cleverness would be the key. Charles by late-rounds kayo or decision.

Randy Neumann, a former professional heavyweight, is a veteran referee who has worked several world title fights.

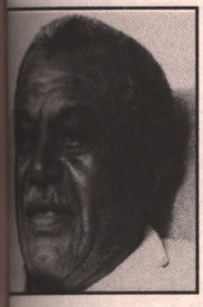


a heavyweight champion, Holyfield struggled for acceptance, partly because two of his high profile bouts came against oldies Larry Holmes (pictured) and George Foreman. Holyfield won both by unanimous decision.



Like Charles, Harold Johnson was a natural light heavyweight who often campaigned against heavyweights. In September 1953, Johnson, seven years Charles' junior, outpointed Charles over 10 rounds in Philadelphia.

DDIE FUTCH



Charles was a clever boxer. He wasn't a great puncher, but he could hurt anybody. He wasn't in real top shape when over 175 pounds. I remember talking to him about a week before his second fight with Jersey Joe Walcott. He told me to come back the next day, that I could watch him spar. I returned, but he didn't spar. When I asked him why, he said, "After I finished my workout terday, I weighed 177. If I continue to spar, I'll drop below the light yweight limit."

Similarly, I always thought of Holyfield as a cruiserweight in the yweight division. He'll be remembered as a good, but not a great, yweight champion. He was a fair boxer, a good puncher with a lot of t. He would come to you and make you fight. Against Charles, wever, he'd be lacking in skills.

Charles would try to dominate with his left jab and counter Holyfield's ters. His boxing skills would win him the fight. Holyfield would try to werpowering with his aggressiveness and great conditioning. Charles was good a boxer. Charles by unanimous and fairly comfortable decision.

Eddie Futch is arguably the greatest trainer in history. He currently rks with Riddick Bowe, who split a pair of heavyweight title fights with lyfield.

TEDDY ATLAS

There are so many similarities with these fighters. Both came up to heavyweight; if Charles had fought with today's publicity, he would've been a huge story because he came all the way from middleweight. Both were very underrated and unheralded. Both were thought of as overachievers, and what they lacked in punching power, they made up for with consistency and mental toughness. Even their personalities were the same—neither was loud or flashy.

Charles was what they called a good, solid pro. He adjusted well, and he gave Rocky Marciano his toughest fights. Maybe he didn't do anything great, but he did everything well. Holyfield put his punches together well, though he didn't have any great zap on the end of them. I'd give him a slight edge in hand speed and a slight edge in power, only because of his size advantage. But Charles had much more experience.

Holyfield would be more aggressive, with Charles trying to use the jab. It would be a consummate pro's fight. The only time Charles lost was when he got caught. Holyfield doesn't have that kind of punch. Charles on points.

Teddy Atlas is the trainer of WBA/IBF heavyweight champion Michael Moorer, who, in April, dethroned Holyfield. ■

Meldrick Thinks It's Time

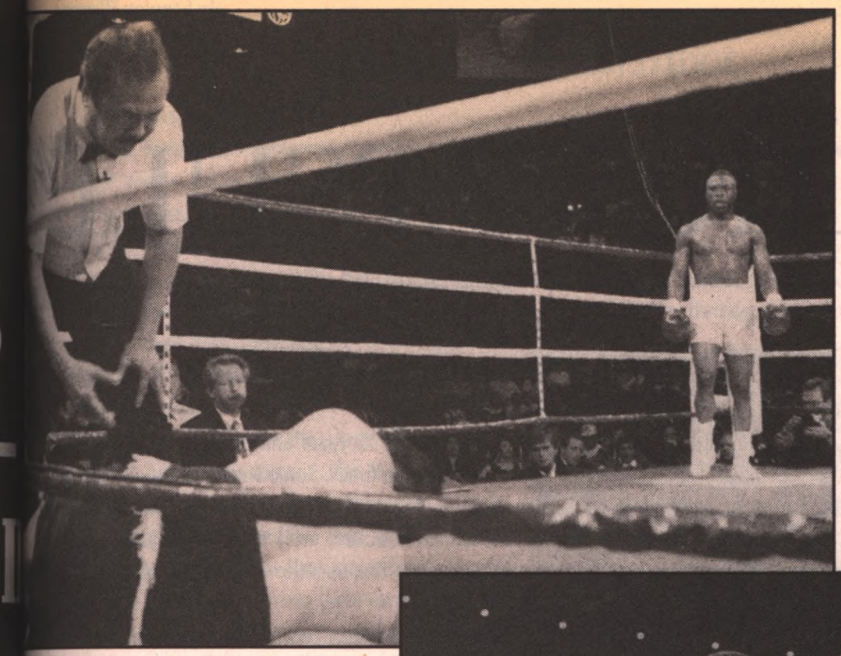
BUT IS TAYLOR-CHAVEZ I LATE?

By Jake Mattox

Meldrick Taylor sits comfortably in his lawyer's suburban New Jersey home and discusses his career, Julio Cesar Chavez' recent ring battles, and the inevitability of a long-awaited rematch between the two fighters.

"He's on the decline, I'm on the incline," Taylor says.

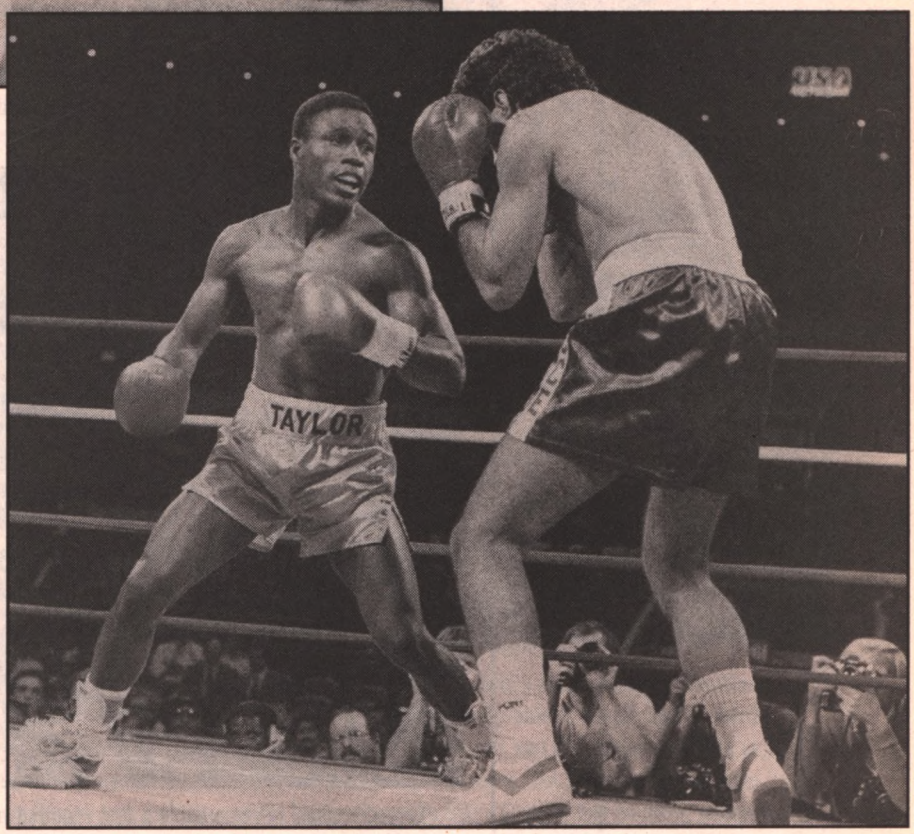
Clad in his snug black leather boxing trunks, he's just completed a photo shoot. Watching him shadowbox to get warmed up, it was difficult to discount his words. Taylor appears to be in top physical condition, and even without an opponent in front of him, there's no mistaking that vintage Tayloresque hand speed.



series of punishing blows, first against "Terrible" Terry Norris and then, five months later, against Crisanto Espana. The trunks that Taylor poses in are the same pair he wore in the massacre at the hands of Espana. He hopes that's the only connection between that Taylor and the focused fighter who is anxious to regain his place at the top of the boxing world.

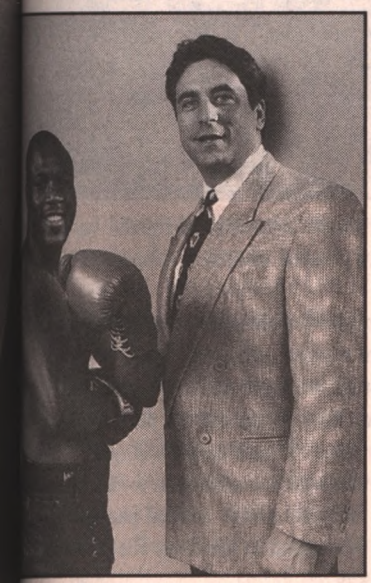
The Norris and Espana fights were painful to watch, especially after the poetry of his perfor-

Left: Referee Carlos Padilla counts out Chad Broussard, making Taylor a winner for the third time since his kayo loss to Crisanto Espana in October 1992. This fight occurred in May. Below: Taylor was a slim, trim lightweight when he turned pro against Luke Lecce 10 years ago. Now 27, he's headed for one last try at the title, preferably against rival Julio Cesar Chavez.



speaks in a relaxed, easy manner. nally he slips into the kind of rhetoric ps deflect a difficult or painful question. st often, his responses reveal thoughtful- d a consistently positive state of mind.

lawyer, Michael Dansky, is present, by no means inhibits the fighter. The two sly work well together and have devel- sense of trust and respect for the job each Dansky remains quiet, listening to Taylor questions and offering an occasional vote fidence: "The person who knows what's r Meldrick Taylor," he says, "is Meldrick ."



has a fresh approach to life and boxing, in part to his adviser, New Jersey attor- hael Dansky. However, the former cham- esn't employ a steady trainer.

What's best for Taylor has been a subject of much debate. The fighter continues to seek a rematch with Chavez or, if that does not materialize, a fight with one of the other titleholders at 140 pounds, Jake Rodriguez (IBF) or Juan Coggi (WBA). Less than two years ago, it was assumed his career was over.

Taylor is upbeat; he's established some momentum by winning three consecutive fights, and his frustration at failing to secure an immediate rematch with Chavez—the pair fought in March 1990—has subsided. Still, an image that won't dissolve is that of the fighter absorbing a

mances against Chavez and others. So thorough were the beatings that the memories are hard to erase. Certainly Taylor won't forget them. The obvious questions: What's different now? If Taylor is going to continue to fight at the top level, what will prevent a reoccurrence of one of those destructive losses?

***

What happens outside the ring so often plays a dominant role in what happens inside. There have been significant changes in Taylor's career over the last two years. Immediately after the

(Continued on page 59)

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

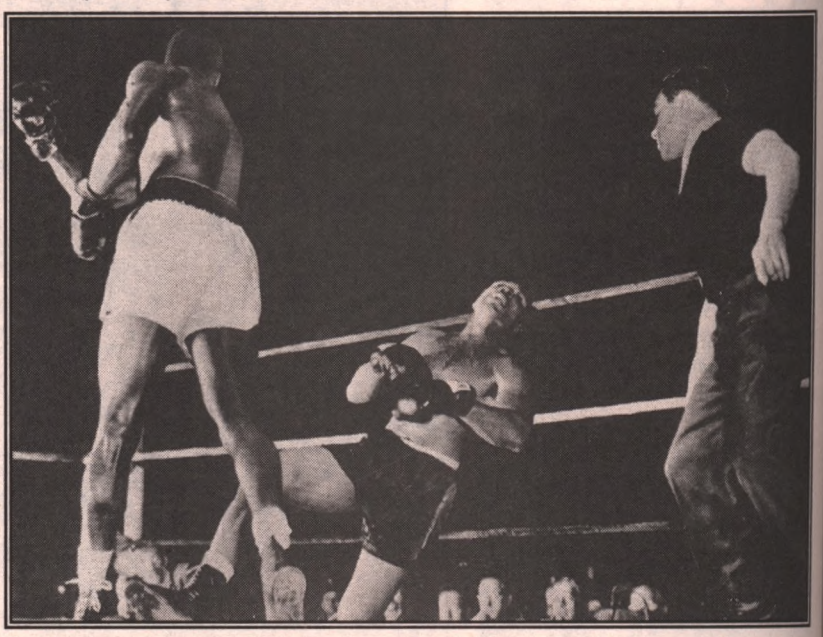
Time CAPSULES

IT TOOK A HELLUVA FIGHTER TO DO THIS TO ARCHIE MOORE

(January 13, 1948)

In a landmark case that spanned an incredible 30 years and more than 300 fights (many unrecorded), Archie Moore was stopped a mere seven times. Some were because of cuts, and three were because Archie's legs had grown weary with age at the hands of babies like Floyd Patterson and Cassius Clay. Then there was that kid named Marciano, who was only 10 years younger than Archie when the old man dropped, more from exhaustion than the impact of Rocky's blockbusters, in what proved to be Marciano's last fight.

The picture shown here is historic for two reasons: One, boxing historians consider it the most dramatic portrayal of a knockout ever recorded and, two, it is the only time Archie Moore was ever really and truly knocked out.



To accomplish so remarkable a feat required not simply a great prize fighter, but rather a *Superman*, a man with the extraordinary skills of Ezzard Charles, who, in my opinion, is the most underrated heavyweight champion of all-time.

It happened at the old Cleveland Arena on a blistery, snowy night before a crowd of only 8,334 pro-Charles fans. Archie couldn't seem to avoid Ezzard's jolting jabs, and Charles' right seemed mechanically zeroed in on such targets as Moore's solar plexus, heart, and jaw. Archie was slowly but surely ground down like a plug of chewing tobacco. After pacing himself perfectly for seven one-sided rounds, the time had arrived for the *coup de grace*. Ezzard moved out quickly to start round eight, pumped a right under the heart, and followed with a combination to the head and a crackling overhand right that caught Moore flush on the chin. Archie seemed paralyzed as his whole body quivered and his head jolted backward as he toppled to the floor. His hands, folded over his chest, gave the scene a tense, eerie effect as he fell.

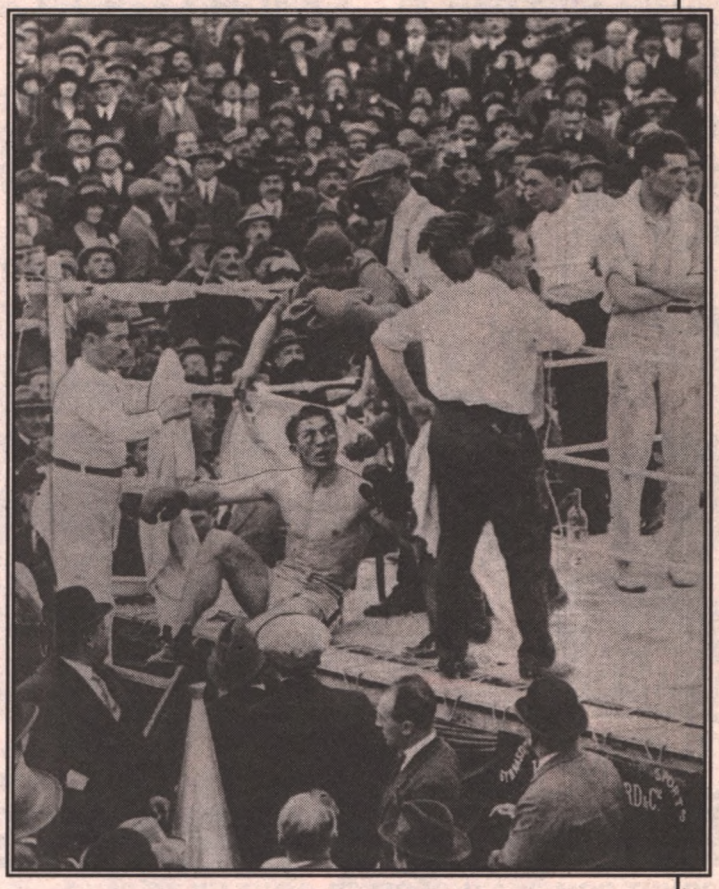
In his 1991 biography, *Archie (The Ol' Mongoose) Moore* (Branden Publishing Co.), there is no mention at all of that fateful night in Cleveland. Such calamities are best forgotten.

DISGRACED IDOL

(September 24, 1922)

The French have always been fanatically supportive of their sports heroes. So when Frenchmen put Georges Carpentier in the same hero class with Napolean Bonapart, it gives you an idea of what they think of "Gorgeous Georges," that classically handsome, magnificently proportioned boxer who fought professionally in every weight class from flyweight to heavyweight and held the world light heavyweight championship for three years.

Georges fought for the glory of France 109 times in his 19-year career (1908-1927). But there was that one terrible autumn afternoon at Paris' sprawling Buffalo Stadium that all Frenchmen, especially the Gorgeous One himself, would have liked to have burned from their memories. That was the day Carpentier disintegrated in less than 18 minutes, going from adored hero to shattered idol. That was the day a fierce native of Senegal named Louis Phal, fighting as Battling Siki, ripped apart Georges' classic defense, tore holes in his pink flesh, and raised tomato-red welts the size of jumbo eggs under both his eyes. But pain from wounds of the flesh was numbed by punctured pride and humiliation to a man of Carpentier's stature when, for the first time in his glorious career, the fanatical cheers of his adoring countrymen suddenly turned to boos and catcalls and violent fist-waving. The reason for this astonishing popularity nose-dive was not that Georges was suffering the worst beating of his life, but rather the shameful tactics he stooped to using instead of accepting inevitable defeat under the blistering fists of a vastly superior foe. True French idols are always men of honor in defeat as well as victory.



The best account of what happened on that tumultuous day, before the largest crowd to ever witness a prize fight in France, was published in the leading Paris newspaper the next day. These are extracts from that article:

"Carpentier appeared thin. His complexion was sallow and his face drawn, but he was apparently in good condition. He weighed 173½ to Siki's 174. Siki rushed from his corner to start the first round before the Frenchman was off his stool. But Carpentier held him off with two straight rights to the head. Carpentier was obviously surprised when he landed several solid blows that Siki shook off without any effect. In the second round, Georges caught Siki with a terrific right to the jaw, then stepped back, expecting to see him fall. But when Siki failed to budge, Carpentier seemed disheartened. The same thing happened near the end of the round. This time the African grinned and is supposed to have said, 'You don't hit very hard, Mr. Georges.'

"Carpentier took a terrible beating in the third and fourth rounds. He was hammered to the floor three times. Both his eyes were all but swollen shut, his nose was fractured in two places, and his mouth hung open, gasping for breath. Georges tried every trick he had learned in his long career, holding with one arm and hitting with the other. Butting, rabbit blows to the back of the neck, even bringing his knees up into Siki's groin. Georges stumbled out for the sixth round hardly able to stand. Siki doubled him up with rights to the belly and Carpentier crumbled to the floor, half through the ropes. But as he was falling, one of his legs got between Siki's legs. At that moment, referee Harry Bernstein did an extraordinary thing by disqualifying Siki for tripping. The crowd went wild and stormed the ring in protest. They carried the startled Siki on their shoulders and tried to kill Bernstein at the same time. After police restored order, the three judges went into consultation, and after an hour of deliberation, the referee's outrageous verdict was reversed and Battling Siki was ruled winner and new light heavyweight champion of the world."

The accompanying picture shows a bewildered, horribly battered and disgraced Carpentier sitting on the ring apron, hoping to get back to his dressing room in one piece and thinking he has won and is still champion. An hour later he was dismayed to learn he was the *former* champion.

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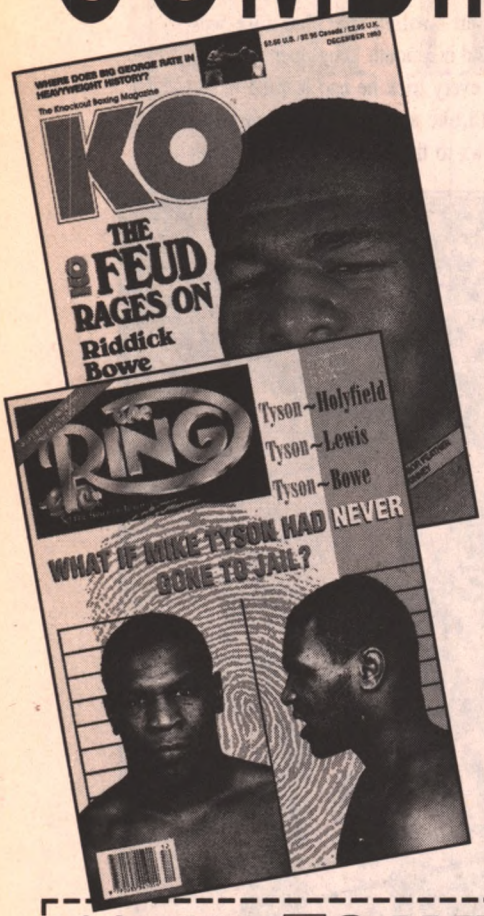

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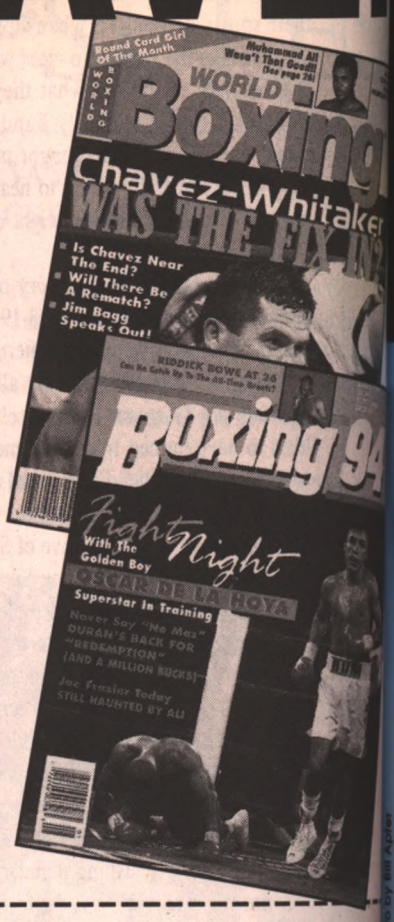

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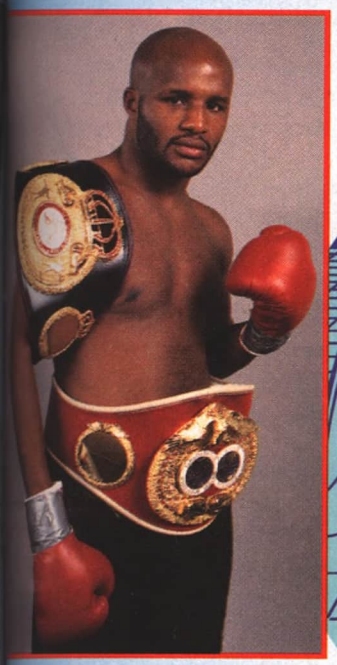


Michael Moorer

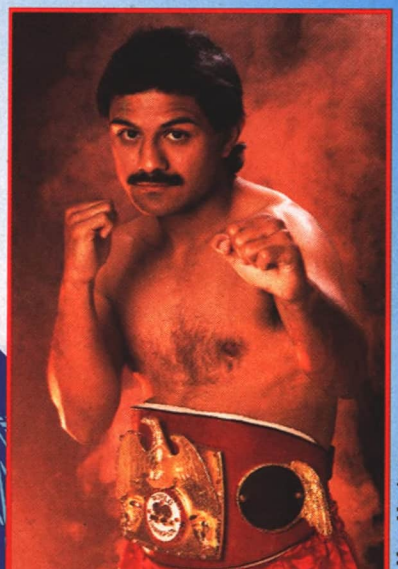


Photo by Marc Morrison

Orlando Canizales

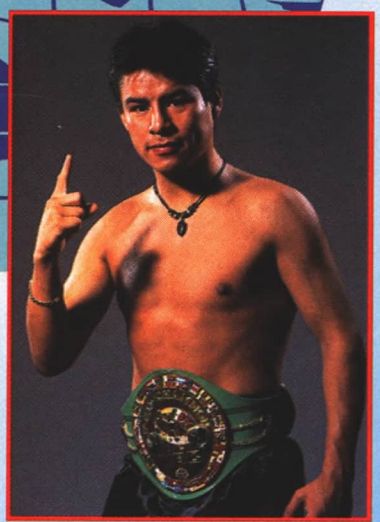


Photo by Chris Farina

Miguel Angel Gonzalez

Who Are They? Where Do They Rate?

Steve Farhood

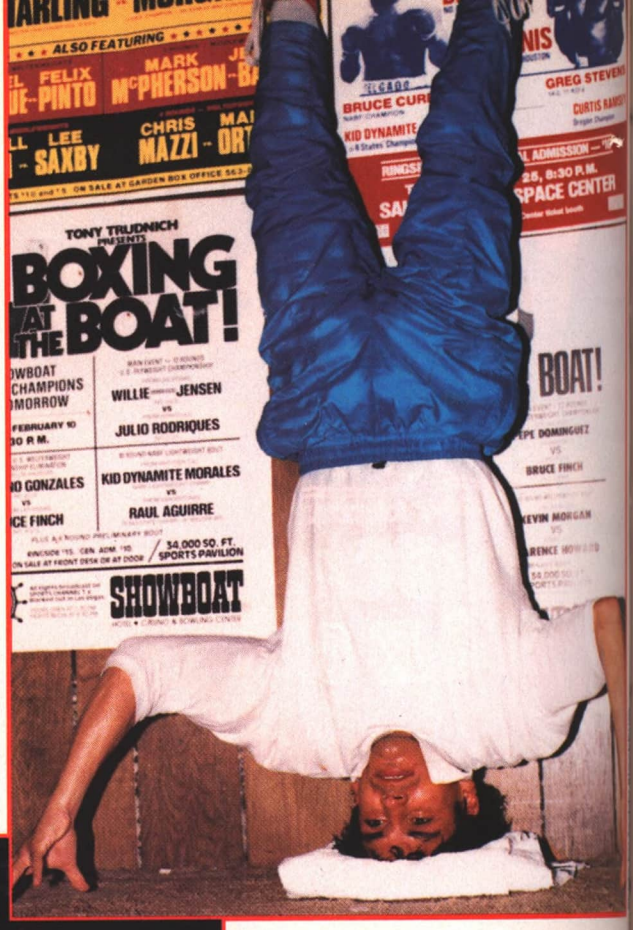
In the 1994 version of the world champion name game, there's a Jones, a Jackson, and a John-John to go along with two Johnsons. There are two Gonzalezes, two Vasquezes, two Norrises. Moorer is more than Little, but quite the top-10 banana that Chiquita is. Benn, and Lewis have last names like names, and Sithbangprachan, Sow Vorapin, Porpaoin can leave you tongue-Thaied. is from Puerto Rico, not Trinidad, and is from Venezuela, not Spain. Lennox have a china-chin, Jesse James didn't the title, and Kevin isn't Irish, even with a name like Kelley.

Photo by Tom Casino

Whitaker & Toney: The best in boxing

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Has Chavez been leaning on Sulaiman?



Lopez has to stand on his head to get attention

Now that you're dizzy and confused, we're going to apply the knockout punch: We've taken boxing's 49 reigning world champions (as of June 10, 1994) and ranked them according to ability, accomplishment, and potential. We're sure our listing will create the usual debate. Feel free to send us hate mail. It's our favorite kind.

1. Pernell Whitaker: Something to think about: "Sweet Pea" has established himself as boxing's best fighter while reigning at welterweight—and he's not really a welterweight at all. (Betcha he can still make 140 without a struggle.) Who will be the fighter to topple him? Felix Trinidad? Buddy McGirt? Kostya Tszyu? Terry Norris? Whitaker will get bored before he gets beat.

2. James Toney: Can Whitaker lose the top spot without losing a fight? If Toney defeats Prince Charles Williams and Roy Jones, we'll have to consider flopping numbers one and two. Toney is refreshing, a champ who actually goes out of his way to find the toughest competition. Stylewise, Jones will be a problem. But if it turns into a fight ...

3. Orlando Canizales: Over the years, we've been critical of the level of Canizales' competition. But where other champions have come and gone (Junior Jones, Luisito Espinosa, Jorge Eliecer Julio, Raul Perez), Canizales has endured. Boxing's longest-reigning champion looked as good as ever in kayoing Gerardo Martinez in February. The bad news: He'll probably never secure that real big fight.

4. Ricardo Lopez: Argue if you will that a strawweight has no business in the top 10. Moreover, whom has Lopez ever beaten? Pretty Boy Lucas and Toto Phongsawang? Who's next, one of the Munchkins? We offer no defense. All we know is that even a casual fan can recognize the long-reigning Mexican's exquisite skills. Or

course, we'd feel a lot better about ranking him this high if he proved himself against Michael Carbajal or Chiquita Gonzalez.

5. **Chiquita Gonzalez:** The diminutive Mexican scored big points by overcoming a psychological handicap in his rematch with Carbajal. (He got starched in the first fight.) And credit him for changing styles in the middle of the fight, something many champions wouldn't even try to do. That said, Chiquita won't be here for long. The Carbajal win will turn out to be the highlight of his career.

6. **Kennedy McKinney:** We laughed when "King Kennedy" first told us of his plan to supplant Wilfredo Gomez (17 successful defenses) as the finest junior feather of all-time. We're not laughing now. McKinney isn't included on every pound-for-pound list only because he fights mostly in obscurity. Don't look for Tracy Patterson or any other 122-pounder to beat him. He'll reign for as long as he wants to make the weight.

7. **Roy Jones:** During Jones' painfully slow climb to the top, we sensed we weren't being exposed to the total package. Now Jones is a champ, and after watching him destroy Thomas Tate, we're sure we were right. Combine his speed, defense, and power, and Jones is probably the most talented fighter in the world. Maybe we'll stop questioning the intangibles after he fights Toney.

8. **Gerald McClellan:** It's almost unfair: McClellan, who climbs through the ropes at about 172 pounds after scaling 160 the day before, beats up on smaller middleweights. Look for an immediate jump to super middleweight. If he carries his power with him—we rate McClellan as the best puncher in the game—he'll knock out Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank and threaten James Toney as no other 168-pounder has done.

9. **Yuri Arbachakov:** You won't find this Japan-based Russian on too many pound-for-pound lists; most insiders haven't seen him fight. We've seen Arbachakov on tape, and his right hand is as dangerous as that of any fly of recent years. He's beaten good opposition, too (Muangchai Kittikasem, Isaias Zamudio, Yun Jin Chin). A good bet to kayo both Chiquita Gonzalez and Michael Carbajal, should they move up.

10. **Miguel Angel Gonzalez:** While no lightweight champion since Pernell Whitaker has established himself as the division's best fighter, Mexico's Gonzalez seems the best of today's lot. He's a talented boxer-puncher, and while his chin is vulnerable, he's shown the guts to roar

BOXING'S CHAMPIONS, FROM HEAVYWEIGHT TO STRAWWEIGHT

(Champions as of June 10, 1994)

Champion	Division	Record	Defenses	Ranking
Lennox Lewis	Heavyweight	25-0 (21)	3	23
Michael Moorer*	Heavyweight	35-0 (30)	0	17
Al Cole	Cruiserweight	24-1 (12)	3	28
Orlin Norris	Cruiserweight	40-3 (22)	1	19
Anaclet Wamba	Cruiserweight	40-2 (19)	4	42
Jeff Harding	Light Heavyweight	21-3 (17)	2	47
Virgil Hill	Light Heavyweight	38-1 (20)	5	20
Henry Maske	Light Heavyweight	24-0 (10)	4	26
Nigel Benn	Super Middleweight	38-2-1 (32)	5	22
Steve Little	Super Middleweight	22-13-2 (5)	0	49
James Toney	Super Middleweight	42-0-2 (28)	2	2
John David Jackson	Middleweight	31-0 (18)	0	27
Roy Jones	Middleweight	26-0 (23)	1	7
Gerald McClellan	Middleweight	31-2 (29)	3	8
Terry Norris	Junior Middleweight	38-4 (23)	0	14
Gianfranco Rosi	Junior Middleweight	57-3-1 (17)	11	33
Julio Cesar Vasquez	Junior Middleweight	50-1 (35)	8	30
Ike Quartey	Welterweight	26-0 (22)	0	29
Felix Trinidad	Welterweight	23-0 (19)	3	11
Pernell Whitaker	Welterweight	33-1-1 (15)	2	1
Julio Cesar Chavez	Junior Welterweight	90-1-1 (77)	0	18
Juan Coggi	Junior Welterweight	66-2-2 (41)	6	40
Jake Rodriguez	Junior Welterweight	25-2-2 (6)	1	39
Miguel Angel Gonzalez	Lightweight	32-0 (26)	5	10
Nazarov Olzubek	Lightweight	19-0 (14)	1	36
Rafael Ruelas	Lightweight	41-1 (32)	1	31
Genaro Hernandez	Junior Lightweight	30-0-1 (15)	7	16
Jesse James Leija	Junior Lightweight	28-0-2 (13)	0	12
John-John Molina	Junior Lightweight	35-3 (25)	6	15
Tom Johnson	Featherweight	35-2-1 (23)	3	25
Kevin Kelley	Featherweight	38-0 (26)	1	13
Eloy Rojas	Featherweight	28-1-1 (24)	1	37
Kennedy McKinney	Junior Featherweight	27-0-1 (16)	5	6
Tracy Patterson	Junior Featherweight	50-2-1 (36)	4	24
Wilfredo Vasquez	Junior Featherweight	39-6-3 (31)	6	35
Orlando Canizales	Bantamweight	37-1-1 (28)	15	3
John Michael Johnson	Bantamweight	18-4 (14)	0	48
Yasuei Yakushiji	Bantamweight	21-2-1 (15)	1	41
Julio Borboa	Junior Bantamweight	23-4 (20)	5	21
Hiroshi Kawashima	Junior Bantamweight	14-2-1 (12)	0	46
Katsuya Onizuka	Junior Bantamweight	24-0 (17)	5	38
Yuri Arbachakov	Flyweight	18-0 (14)	4	9
San Sow Ploenchit	Flyweight	18-0 (5)	1	34
Phichit Sithbangprachan	Flyweight	20-0 (15)	5	43
Leo Gamez	Junior Flyweight	25-3 (18)	1	44
Chiquita Gonzalez**	Junior Flyweight	38-2 (26)	0	5
Ricardo Lopez	Strawweight	36-0 (26)	10	4
Chana Porpaoin	Strawweight	31-0 (13)	4	32
Ratanapol Sow Vorapin	Strawweight	18-2-1 (13)	6	45

Key: WBC Champion WBA Champion IBF Champion
*Holds WBA & IBF titles **Holds WBC & IBF titles

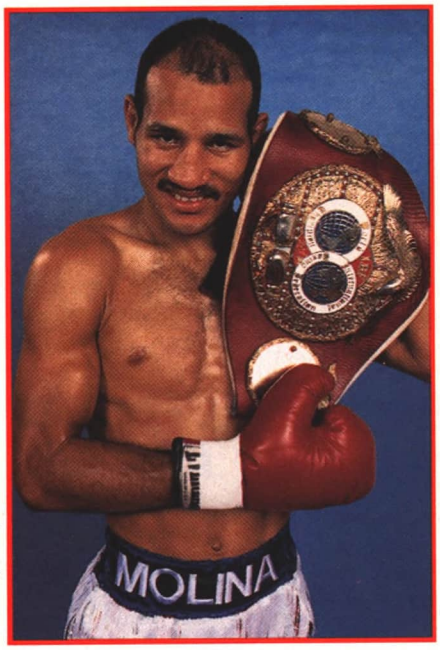


Photo by Bill Apter

Molina would risk his belt vs. Oscar De La Hoya

Benn is no longer the limited puncher who kayoed Doug DeWitt

back when hurt. Defenses against Leavander Johnson and Azumah Nelson will tell us lots more.

11. Felix Trinidad: We hate to put too much emphasis on a fighter's most recent bout, but Trinidad, a big hitter, fought with patience and intelligence against Hector Camacho. Combine that with his devastating title-winning performance vs. Maurice Blocker and his quick demolition of the usually sturdy Luis Garcia, and he belongs here. A big test is upcoming against Yori Boy Campas. We like Trinidad. Big.

12. Jesse James Leija: Too high a rating too soon? Perhaps. But Leija dethroned Azumah Nelson because he fought brilliantly, and not because Nelson fought his age. Leija seems the kind of determined, focused fighter who will realize his potential. If his first defense comes against Gabe Ruelas, as manager Lester Bedford has indicated, it won't be easy. But Leija doesn't have to duck anyone.

13. Kevin Kelley: When the New York southpaw emphasizes brains over brawn, as he did for the first six rounds vs. Goyo Vargas, he can be dominant. But when he fancies himself a walk-in slugger, as he did for portions of his defense against Jesse Benavides, he finds trouble. With HBO's support, Kelley can become a major star. But where's the name opposition going to come from?

14. Terry Norris: Fourteenth or 40th? Norris let his speed and skills carry him in his return with Simon Brown, and he won in a near shutout. But no matter how much success he enjoys in his second life, we'll always be waiting for his chin to give out. After beating Brown, he

RATING THE DIVISIONS

Which division has the best champions? After rating the 49 reigning world champions, we used our numbers to rate the 17 weight classes. We did so by averaging the rankings of each division's three (or, as is the case at heavyweight and junior flyweight, two) champions. The results revealed that due largely to the slide of Julio Cesar Chavez, the junior welterweight class, long considered the best in the game, has become relatively weak, at least at the top. In fact, it placed next to last.

1. Welterweight
2. Middleweight
3. Junior Lightweight
4. Heavyweight
5. Junior Featherweight
6. Super Middleweight
7. Junior Flyweight
8. Featherweight
9. (tie) Junior Middleweight
9. (tie) Lightweight
11. Strawweight
12. Flyweight
13. Cruiserweight
14. Bantamweight
15. Light Heavyweight
16. Junior Welterweight
17. Junior Bantamweight

IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad

he no longer cared whether the experts ked him on the pound-for-pound lists. To be nest, Terry, we're not sure what to do with u.

15. **John-John Molina:** For the three 130-nd world champions, the junior lightweight ision is easy—as long as they don't fight each er. Like WBA counterpart Genaro Hernandez, lina has enjoyed a relatively lengthy reign. In ent months, he's impressed with convincing ns over former world champs Manuel Medina nd Goyo Vargas. What he needs now is what 's needed for years—a really big fight. Hello, car? Are you there, Oscar?

16. **Genaro Hernandez:** In case you're won-ring, we ranked Molina ahead of Hernandez sed on quality of opposition. Hernandez ssed out on the opportunity of a lifetime when car De La Hoya chose to duck him. Now his ure is in doubt because of bad hands. When 0 percent, he's a multidimensional fighter who pts to his opponent. But his list of victims mains underwhelming.

17. **Michael Moorer:** All is not well when ht fists are rated above the heavyweight cham-n. Moorer is unpredictable in the ring, just as ely to engage in a breathless brawl as a boring thon. He fought a bit too cautiously against nder Holyfield, but nonetheless deserved the ke. Will his new status affect his focus? A fense against George Foreman isn't likely to vide the answer.

18. **Julio Cesar Chavez:** "J.C. Superstar" y be ranked 18th, but he's a lot closer to 40th n first. His fights with Frankie Randall sug-sted not only that his defense has slipped, but o that his chin is no longer invulnerable. eative matchmaking (Meldrick Taylor, ovanni Parisi) will probably allow him to keep e title for a while. But this is no longer the hter who dominated three divisions.

19. **Orlin Norris:** We've been touting Norris r years, or ever since he dropped down from vyweight. But how can we rank him higher n 19th after his dreadful defense in March ainst Arthur Williams? Norris, who was bat-ed, received a gift decision. It's going to take o or three impressive performances, and ybe a title unification, for him to win us over ain.

20. **Virgil Hill:** Picture this: It's the year 16, and Hill, 52, has made 79 successful fenses. As he is celebrated, a single voice obably ours) is heard: "But who's he ever ught?" The light heavyweight division is adful, and champions Hill, Henry Maske, and

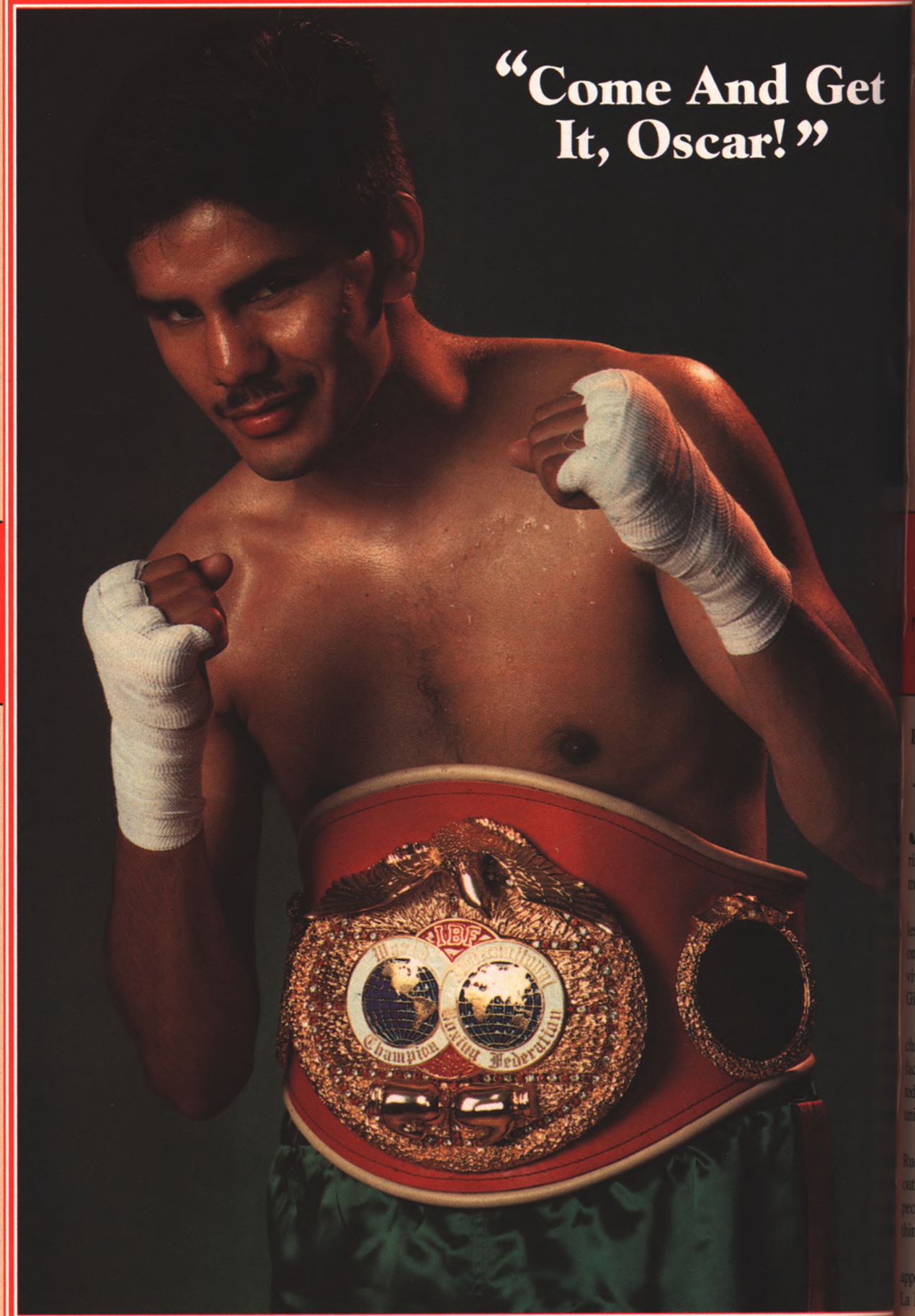
(Continued on page 52)

Photo by Al Bello

Tracy Patterson wants to be like his dad Floyd: An undisputed champ.

Photo by Gary Thibeault

Rodriguez showed his mettle in topping Ray Oliveira


"Come And Get
It, Oscar!"
IBF
Champion

Despite considerable advantages in height and reach, Ruelas engaged Evgen in phone booth war. Ruelas threw 432 punches in less than three rounds of work.

RAFAEL RUELAS HOPES FOR THE FIGHT OF A LIFETIME

Ivan G. Goldman

Just like the old days: For his first title defense, IBF lightweight champion Rafael Ruelas was back on an undercard. The main-eventer? The opponent he prefers most in all the world, Oscar De La Hoya. In the ring at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Ruelas and De La Hoya pounded out messages to each other on their opponents' respective skulls.

Throwing punches like a runaway jackhammer, Ruelas annihilated hapless substitute Mike Evgen by third-round TKO. (Evgen, who took the bout on two weeks notice, replaced the injured Carl Griffith.) De La Hoya, suffering a knockdown in the first round, came off the canvas to destroy Italian Sergio Campanella, also by third-round TKO. *(See story on page 22.)*

By the time referee Mitch Halpern stopped the Ruelas-Evgen fight, the challenger, ranked eighth by the IBF, looked like a car vandal who'd be incarcerated in Singapore. The angel-faced, power-hitting De La Hoya admitted watching the bout on his dressing room monitor, but claimed to be impressed by Ruelas' performance.

A Ruelas-De La Hoya showdown is shaping up for next year. But many suspects De La Hoya, now his own manager, may ultimately wriggle out of the match, no matter how much money is on the table. "He and his people are starting to mention other opponents again," Ruelas laments. "I know he may get away from me again, but I hope not."

If the fight between L.A.'s crosstown rivals does indeed come off—it seems to have the blessing of Top Rank mega-promoter Bob Arum—De La Hoya, 13-0 (12), figures to be severely tested. Ruelas, 41-1 (32), who

Photo by Tom Casino

His first defense of the IBF lightweight title a successful one, Ruelas is flanked by referee Mitch Halpern and trainer-manager Joe Goossen.

won the IBF title title by dethroning the formidable Freddie Pendleton in February, figures De La Hoya's sweet smile won't count for much when he finally faces a world-class fighter.

But De La Hoya, appearing unworried, says Ruelas "really doesn't do much thinking up in the ring. He just keeps throwing them until his opponent falls down."

Retorts Ruelas, "Who is he to be judging me? I've had 42 fights. He's had what, 13? And he's already been dropped a couple of times by opponents who were carefully selected."

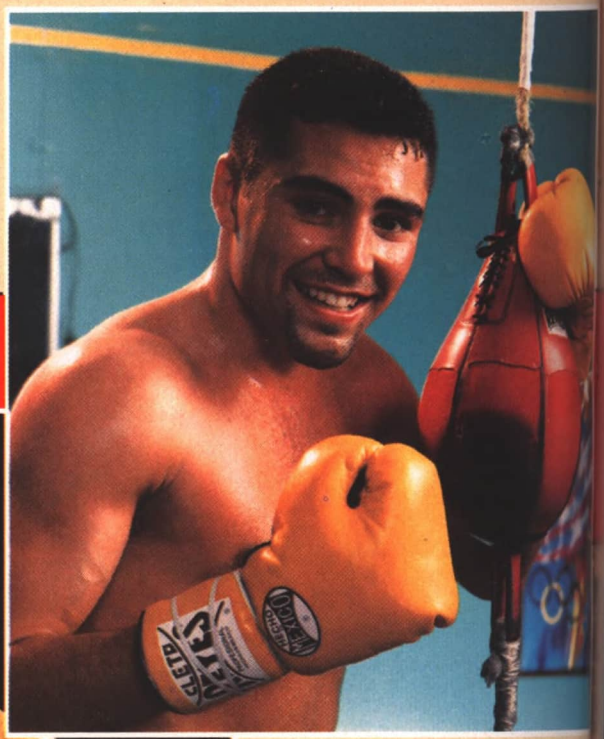
Contrary to De La Hoya's needling, Ruelas is actually a thoughtful type who always fights with a plan. But while he and his trainer-manager, Joe Goossen, salivate in anticipation of a showdown with De La Hoya, they also understand the facts. To fight "The Golden Boy," they must stand in line. Oscar doesn't come to you. You must go to him.

After only a few fights against lesser lights, De La Hoya, a 1992 Olympic gold medalist, was already being asked when, not if, he would make a title bid. Consequently, fighters his own size aren't the only ones who resent De La Hoya. High-strung IBF middleweight champion Roy Jones fought another of the prelims at the MGM Grand. Both before and after the fight, he directed as much venom toward De La Hoya as he did toward his opponent, Thomas Tate. IBF super middleweight champion James Toney, another world-beater who had to settle for being on a De La Hoya undercard in March, also wonders aloud: "Why?"

One answer, of course, is Arum, who has been working overtime to dropkick De La Hoya right over everyone else. Arum, he makes clear, envisions an explosion of De La Hoya plentitude, an epic starring a tough, handsome Oscar playing himself on big-time pay-per-view, with more sequels than the *Police Academy* movies. Not to mention a supporting video game, paperback rights, shoe endorsements, and scads of toys and T-shirts.

But it is indeed questionable whether De La Hoya has earned the right to eclipse bona fide world champions like Toney, Ruelas, and Jones. Beyond that, the idea that he puts fans in the seats contains more hope than reality. De La Hoya is an unfinished work, a fighter of promise, to be sure. But promise is the catchword. His future has not yet come to pass.

Despite tremendous free publicity for the reopening of the Grand Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, De La Hoya drew fewer than 6,000



Everyone wants Oscar. But what really matters: Who does "The Golden Boy" want to fight? De La Hoya is ready to jump to lightweight, where Ruelas awaits him.

Photo by Brent Cook

Like Ruelas, WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez (shown vs. Harold Warren in October 1993) is craving the opportunity to trade punches with the inexperienced De La Hoya.

fans the night he took the dubious WBO title from Denmark's Jimmi Bredahl. Only 4,1 showed up to see him against Campanella. And that's after figuring in all the free tickets to casino high-rollers.

Even though De La Hoya may well be a fine champion some day, the marketing campaign on his behalf has the contrived look of a crass act, unsupported by logic, justice, or cash register receipts. Hence the resentment.

Take WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez, for instance. He's stuck in low gear fighting tough contenders for low-rent purses in L.A. Meanwhile, he watched De La Hoya shoot right past him to HBO and pay-per-view fights on the Vegas strip.

Out of the ring, Hernandez is a soft-spoken, low-key guy. But when you ask him about De La Hoya, he seethes like a jungle cat whose long-stalked prey escaped to higher ground. He's incensed that De La Hoya is giving up his lightly regarded WBO 130-pound title and moving up to 135 without facing him first.

(Continued on page

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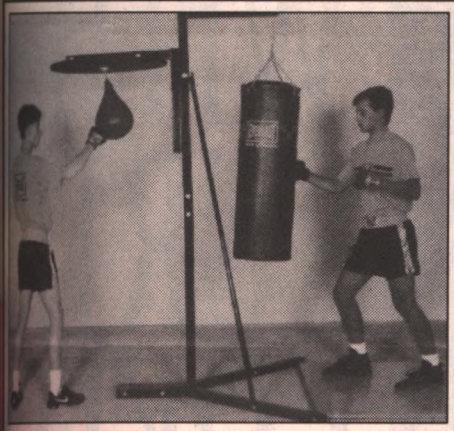

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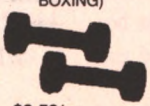

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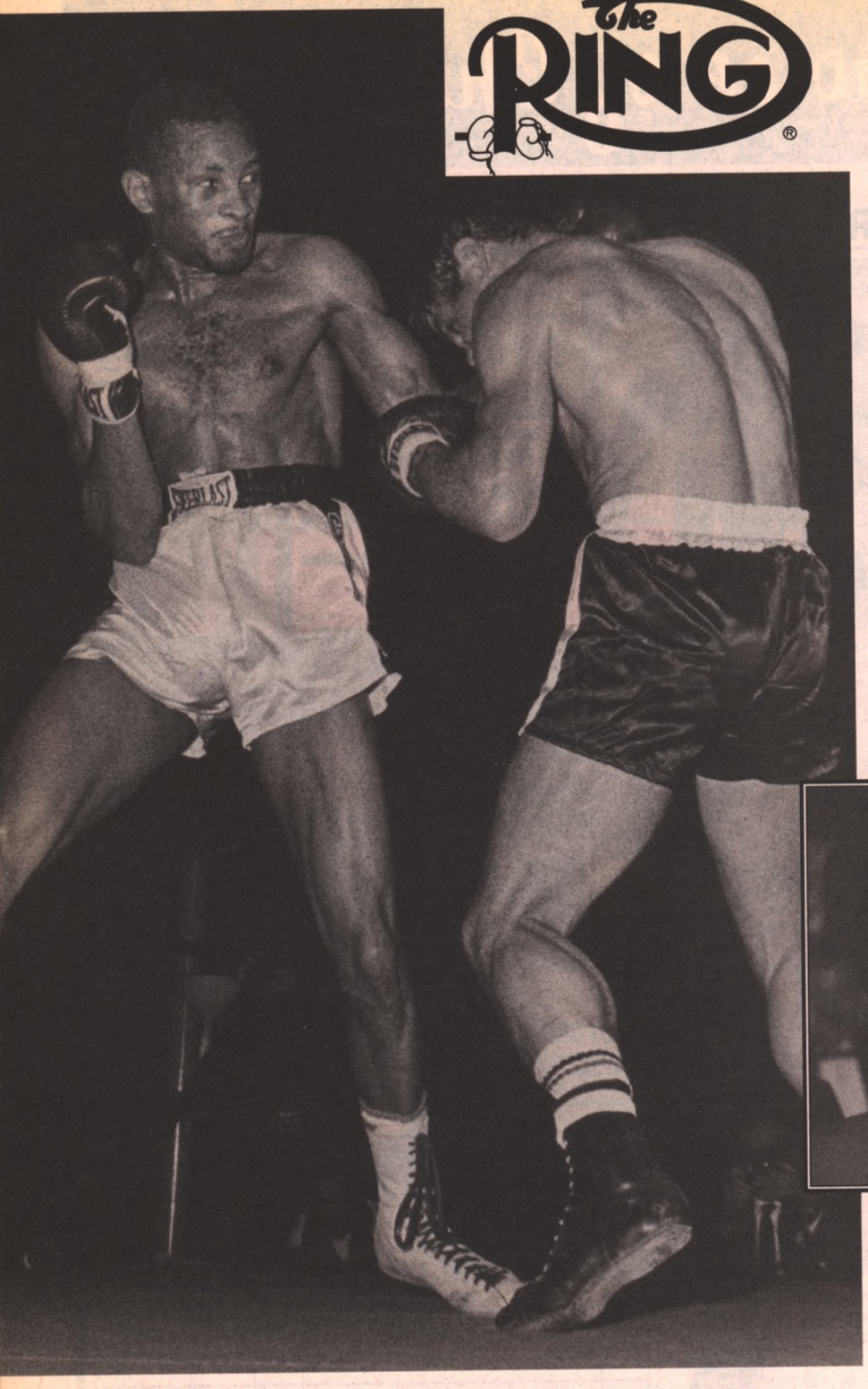
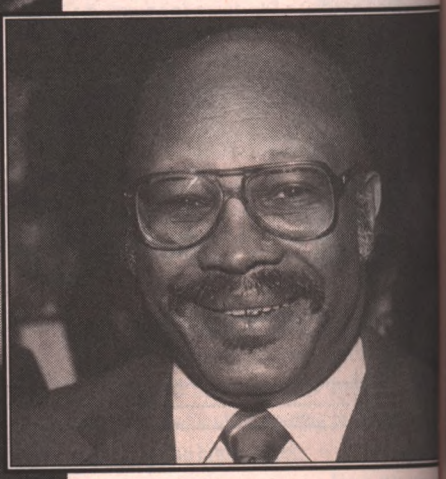




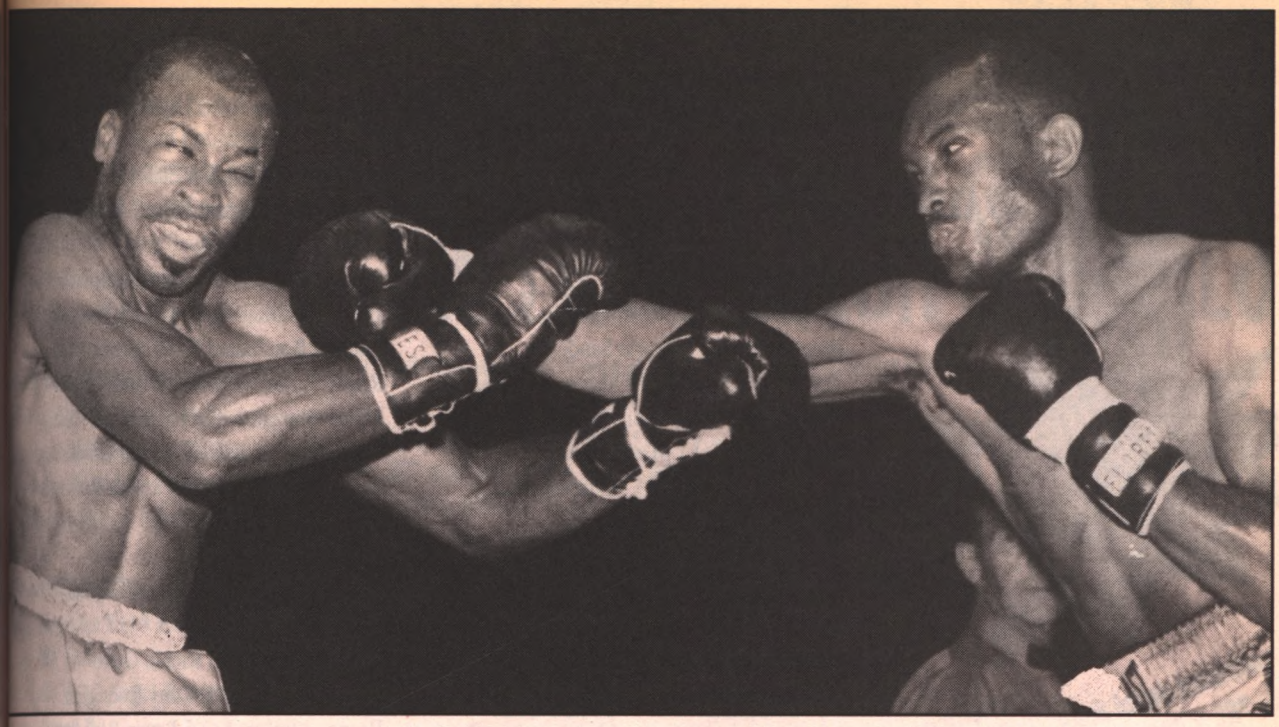
The fight that convinced Cokes he was a legitimate world champion was his points win over Josselin in November 1966. Now 57 and a part-time trainer since 1985, Cokes (inset) says today's fighters don't bother to learn the art of boxing.

Is There A Place For A Cagey Craftsman In Canastota?

By Pete Ehrmann

When he was a candidate for Presid of the United States 30 years a Barry Goldwater facetiously sugg ed the country would be better off if the e Eastern Seaboard were sawed off and flo away.

When he was a candidate for the wo



Cokes' most satisfying victory was his eighth-round kayo of title claimant Charlie Shipes in October 1967. It was the third of his five successful defenses. He went on to lose the title to Jose Napoles in April 1969.

ght championship of the world 30 years ago, tis Cokes pretty much had the same thought.

"Every time I would go to New York, I ld try to do well, but I would always lose," the Texas-born Cokes, who did win the 147- nd title in 1966. "Anywhere on the East t, I would always get beat because I was try- so hard to please those people. They were the holding me back."

There was the time he fought contender Jose e at Madison Square Garden in April 1963.

"I could've gotten out of my sick bed and him, but that's one time I listened to my clippings, because they called me 'the tall puncher,' and I went up there to New York tried to knock this guy out, which I dn't," says Cokes. "I was a boxer, not a cher, but they said I had a good punch and I gonna prove to them I did. I missed him and won a split decision."

After two wins out West, Cokes went East to meet Stanley "Kitten" Hayward in yward's hometown of Philadelphia. The jinx ck again.

"That was about seven, eight days after I got ed, and I took it on short notice and got ged in four rounds," he recalls. "I had ward down in the second round. It was just her thing that happened on the East Coast."

One thing that didn't happen there—or any- e else—was a title shot against world wel- ght champion Emile Griffith. Cokes has no doubt he'd have beaten Griffith in New York or anyplace else.

"Emile Griffith couldn't punch," says Cokes. "He was a busy guy and he was a Garden fighter. He was a house fighter. Madison Square Garden had him and they picked his opponents pretty well for him to beat. They knew he couldn't beat me.

"I could beat him because I beat [Luis] Rodriguez two out of three, and Rodriguez beat Griffith. [Rodriguez indeed beat Griffith once, but Griffith won their three other meetings.] Rodriguez always told me I was a harder hitter than Emile Griffith, and I was a better boxer than Emile."

A professional boxer since 1958, Cokes broke into the top 10 in the 147-pound division in 1962, but the Eastern jinx and Griffith's avoidance of him frustrated Cokes to the point that he quit boxing several times. But each time one of his first trainers, Dallas' Cornbread Smith, would call up Cokes and tell him to get back in the ring because he was a cinch to win the title.

After Cokes knocked out former champion Rodriguez in the 15th round of a title elimination

(Continued on page 61)

In the late-'60s, Cokes stockpiled awards not only for excellence in boxing, but for his civic work in the Dallas area.

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Larry Donald KO 6 Juan Antonio Diaz
Nate Tubbs KO 2 Corrie Sanders
Tommy Morrison W 10 Sherman Griffin
Mike Hunter W 10 Craig Payne
Frans Botha KO 1 Martin Foster
Jeremy Williams KO 1 Andrew Stokes
Alex Garcia W 10 Mike Dixon
Axel Schulz KO 3 Elvin Evans
Melvin Foster W 10 Mitch Green
Ray Anis W 10 Mike Evans
Mario Scheisser KO 3 Ladislav Husarik
Albert Williams KO 1 George Harris

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Chemak Saleta W 10 Carl Williams
Jade Scott W 10 Mike Sedillo
Jade Scott KO 7 Exum Speight
Iran Barkley KO 4 Rick Enis
Nestor Giovannini KO 5 Joa Dos Santoz
Andrew Maynard KO 2 Tim Johnson
Torsten May W 10 Ralf Rocchigiani

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Henry Maske W 12 Andrea Magi
(Retains IBF Title)
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 2 Melvin Wynn
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 7 David Davis
Tim Hillie KO 1 John Keys
Graciano Rocchigiani KO 6 Charles Oliver
Montell Griffin W 10 David Vedder
Wan Sup Lee Tech. Win 6 Garth Cussion
Ricky Frazier W 6 Tyrone Frazier

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

James Toney W 10 Vince Durham
(Non-Title Bout)
Chris Eubank W 12 Ray Close
Tony Byrd KO 4 Ramon Felix
Sam Storey W 6 Fidel Castro Smith
Adam Garland W 10 Mike Peoples
Carl Jones KO 12 Kevin Fullington

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Roy Jones KO 2 Thomas Tate
(Retains IBF Title)
Bernard Hopkins W 12 Lupe Aquino
Steve Collins KO 5 Chris Pyatt
Derrick James KO 2 Ulysses Boulware

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 10 Ahmet Dottuev
(Retains WBA Title)
Winky Wright KO 1 Orlando Orozco
Javier Castillejo W 12 Patrick Vungbo
Laurent Boudouani KO 5 Marino Monteyne
Roger Turner W 8 Walid Underwood
David Gonzalez KO 5 Heriberto Valdez
James Hughes KO 7 Tocker Pudwill
Augustine Renteria KO 8 Alex Rios

WELTERWEIGHTS

Ike Quartey KO 11 Crisanto Espana
(Wins WBA Title)
Larry Barnes W 10 Richie Otero
Spike Cheney W 10 Tony Rodriguez
Bronco McKart KO 5 Bryan Blakely
Marlon Chinilla W 12 Allan Alegria
Romallis Ellis W 10 Jesus Mayorga
Keith Holmes KO 3 Kelcie Banks
Fidel Avendano KO 6 Guillermo Cruz
Jose Alberto Flores W 10 Luis Vasquez
Jesus Cardenas W Disq. 3 Genaro Leon
Antonio Reese W 10 Darryl Lattimore

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Rene Herrera KO 10 Carlos Gonzalez
Ross Hale KO 3 Andy Holligan
Reggie Green KO 3 Kenny Baysmore
Pepe Reilly W 4 Randy Archuleta

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Rafael Ruelas KO 3 Mike Evgen
(Retains IBF Title)
Gabe Ruelas KO 7 Paris Alexander
Billy Schwer KO 9 Howard Grant
Fabian Tejeda KO 2 Juan Gomez Polo
Johnny Avila W 10 Raul Hernandez
Stanley Longstreet KO 7 Daniel Hernandez
Kevin Marston D 10 Manuel Batista

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Oscar De La Hoya KO 3 Giorgio Campanella
Calvin Grove W 8 Angel Aldama Martinez
Jacobin Yoma KO 6 Neil Haddock
Anatoly Alexandrov KO 2 Joseph Murray
Fernando Rodriguez W 10 Wilfredo De La Cruz
Paquito Openio W 10 Orlando Euceda

EATHERWEIGHTS

ve Robinson W 12 Freddy Cruz
ctor Lizarraga KO 7 Joel Diaz
n Gorres KO 6 Chucherd Eausampan
y Hardy KO 8 Alan McKay
rio Gongora KO 9 Paul Ramirez
n Polo Perez W 8 Jose Sanabria
vid Santos KO 8 Jerome Coffee
yoshi Harada W 12 Cris Saguid

UNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

ni Diaz W 10 Felipe Garcia
erry Jacob W 8 Orlando Ballen
ctor Acero W 10 Jose Hernandez
die Wenton KO 10 Bradley Stone

ANTAMWEIGHTS

ando Canizales KO 5 Rolando Bohol
tains IBF Title)
cer Julio W 10 Angel Romero
eem Hamed W 12 Vincenzo Belcastro
ando Bohol KO 6 Kid Melo

UNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

o Cesar Borboa KO 9 Jaji Sibali
tains IBF Title)
ayai Mahasarakam Tech. Dec. 5 Archie
-os
ayai Mahasarakam KO 4 Rolando Pascua
l Luna Zarate KO 6 Noe Santillana
ng Chul Lee KO 2 Kenji Kanazawa

YWEIGHTS

chai Sithbangprachan W 12 Jose Luis
cia
tains IBF Title)
i Arbachakov KO 9 Hiroshi Kobayashi
-Title Bout)
y Romero KO 6 Hugo Torres
l Johnson W 10 Ancee Gedeon
to Jimenez W 10 Arthur Johnson
s Chong KO 6 Ivan Salazar
g Camputaro W 12 Mickey Cantwell

NIOR FLYWEIGHTS

s Beltre Herrera W 12 Fernando Martinez

AWWEIGHTS

ngpol Sow Vorapin KO 6 Roger
ola
tains IBF Title)
y Lin KO 3 Rafael Torres

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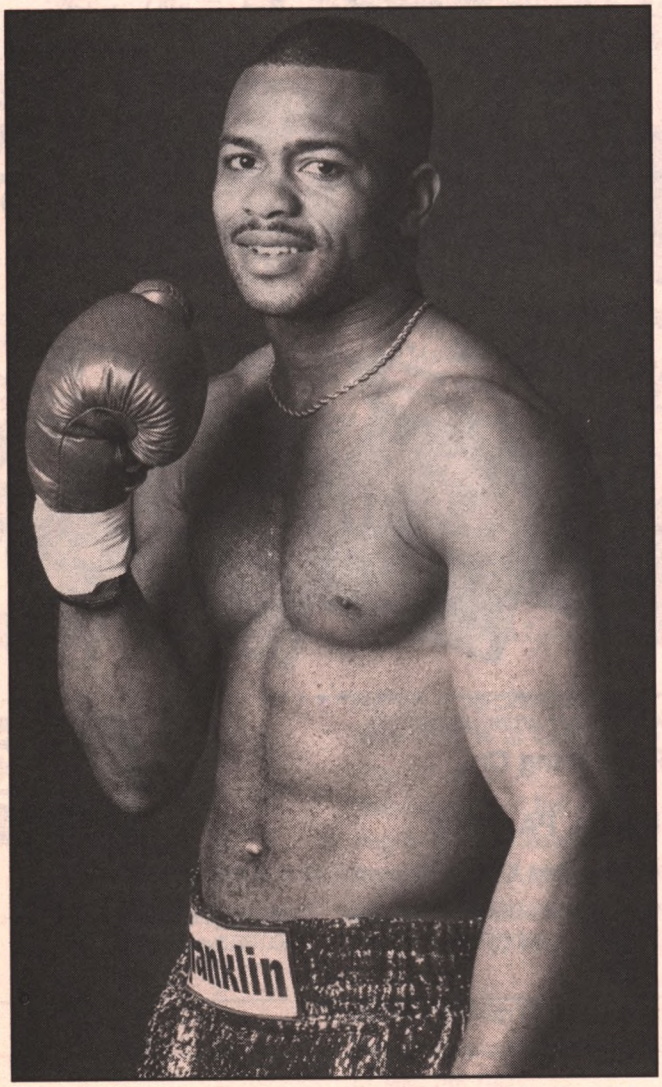
FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

It took IBF middleweight champion Jones one year and five days to make his first defens The wait was worth it. In the most impressive performance of his career, Jones pounde Thomas Tate into submission at the 30-second mark of round two. The quick ending was surprise; in August 1992, Tate, a legitimate contende had taken the best shots of then-champion Julia Jackson for 12 thrilling rounds.



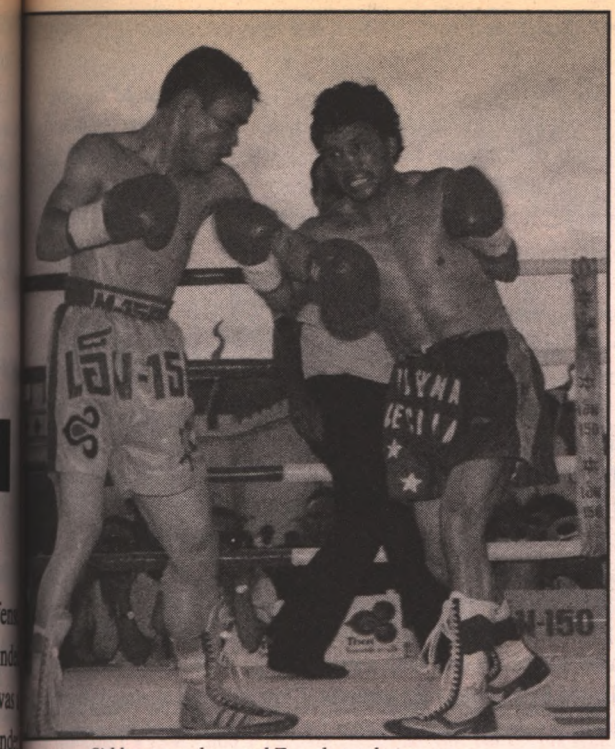
Jones, who toyed with Tate, said he had uniqu motivation.

"I came out here to get him," he said, "because Bo Arum made me a proposition: The best fighter on th card would be the point guard of his basketball team (Arum's company, Top Rank, is attempting t purchase the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves.)

Maybe Jones can become boxing's first two-spo athlete. His fight schedule certainly provides th opportunity to lace up his high-tops and lead a fe fast breaks. Given the recent rash of brawls on th basketball court, he'll fit right in.

••••

Roy Jones



Sithbangprachan and Zepeda trade toe to toe

roshi Kawashima W 12 Jose Luis Bueno

Yokohama, Japan: Hard-punching southpaw Kawashima, 115, Japan, ...led Bueno, 114¾, Nezahualcoyotl, Mexico, scored a knockdown in ...nd 11, and took the WBC super flyweight title by unanimous decision at ...hama Cultural Gymnasium. It was Bueno's first defense.

Having iced 12 opponents in 13 previous victories, Kawashima, 14-2-1 ..., started fast, firing jabs and one-twos. Bueno, a clever boxer, tried to ...terpunch, but the challenger proved faster of both hand and foot.

The 24-year-old Kawashima began to dominate at the halfway mark. ...feree Marty Denkin (USA) penalized him a point for pushing down on ...no's head in the sixth, but the Japanese otherwise controlled the bout ... superior defense.

In the closing seconds of the 11th, Kawashima connected with a well- ...ed left and Bueno, 24-4-1 (17), dropped to the canvas. There were no ...swap punches after the champion picked himself up; he was saved by ...bell.

Bueno, 23, showed pride in stalking Kawashima in the 12th and carrying ...e round. Nonetheless, the judges rewarded Kawashima, with Anek ...ngtongkam (Thailand) scoring 116-110, Tony Castellano (USA) 114- ... and Terry Smith (USA) 114-112. The cards of the Americans were ...gnificable; it was a one-sided affair.

The newly crowned champion is obliged to meet Argentina's Carlos ...zar in his first defense. Salazar recently lost in a title eliminator to ...co Antonio Barrera, but the Mexican scaled above the division limit, so ...us Salazar who qualified for the mandatory title shot.

Japan now boasts of five world champions, including Nazarov Olzubek ... Yuri Arbachakov, a pair of Tokyo-based titlists from Russia. The other ...pions are Kawashima, Yasuei Yakushiji, and Katsuya Onizuka.

Promoter: Kyokuto Promotions, in association with Yonekura ...motions

(5-4-94)

Joe Koizumi

Phichit Sithbangprachan W 12 Jose Luis Zepeda

Rajaburi Province, Thailand: Making his fifth defense of the IBF flyweight title, local favorite Sithbangprachan, 112, was awarded a controversial split decision over Mexico's Zepeda, 110. Sakda Pluemjit (Thailand) and Jacob Limahelu (Indonesia) both scored 115-113 for the champion, and Alex Villacampa 115-112 for Zepeda. The referee was Abraham Pacheco (USA).

Zepeda, 23-11-2 (19), offered an aggressive style and non-stop punching, and Sithbangprachan, 20-0 (15), only occasionally responded with heavier punches in toe-to-toe exchanges. For eight rounds it was a give-and-take affair. In the ninth, Sithbangprachan began to show fatigue, and Zepeda battered him from all angles. The champion punched back, but was clearly on the defensive until the final bell.

Due to the disputed decision, the IBF promised to keep Zepeda number one. The challenger's camp wants more; Team Zepeda has asked for an immediate rematch.

Promoter: Songchai Ratanasuban

(5-8-94)

Joe Koizumi

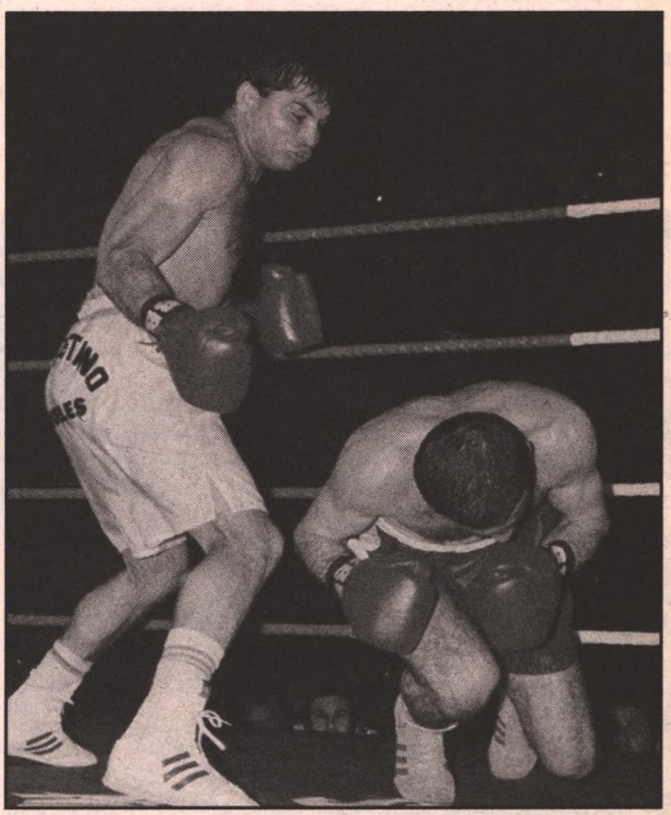


Photo by Action Images

Vasquez drops Dottuev for the fourth and final time

Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 10 Ahmet Dottuev

Belfast, Northern Ireland: An expected mismatch turned into a thoroughly absorbing battle of southpaws as Vasquez, 153, Sante Fe, Argentina, had to twice come off the canvas before stopping the vigorous Dottuev, 153, Volgograd, Russia, to retain the WBA junior middleweight title at the King's Hall. It was Vasquez' eighth defense.

The champion could scarcely have envisioned such a tough encounter, as this was only the 23-year-old challenger's 12th pro fight. Dottuev, 9-2-1

(8), fought with conviction and promise, scoring effectively with sharp, accurate bursts. But the strength of Vasquez, 50-1 (35), proved decisive; he eventually ground down the nimble challenger with a punishing body attack.

The pace was lively from the opening bell, with Dottuev circling and Vasquez pursuing. The junior middles swapped the first two rounds before Dottuev unleashed a perfect right uppercut in the third that dropped Vasquez for a count of three. Buoyed by his success, the Russian consolidated his position in the fourth and fifth, landing a variety of excellent head and body shots while moving away from Vasquez' renowned left hand.

Round six was the most rousing of the fight. A solid left to the body floored Dottuev for an eight-count, but instead of meekly folding, he retaliated with a left and right that decked Vasquez. The turning point came in the seventh, when Vasquez' body shots paid immediate dividends. Dottuev fought increasingly less on his toes and more within the range of the champion's concentrated onslaught.

Barely making it through the ninth, Dottuev had nothing left for the 10th, and referee John Coyle (England) applied the three-knockdown rule at the 47-second mark after Dottuev had fallen to three lefts.

After nine rounds, Vasquez led on all three cards. Both Gustavo Padilla (Panama) and Nestor Ramirez (Venezuela) scored 86-85, and Hank Meijers (Holland) an inexplicable 89-83.

It is anticipated Vasquez' next defense will come against the WBA's number-one contender, Winky Wright.

Promoters: Don King and Frank Warren

(5-21-94)

Brian Doogan

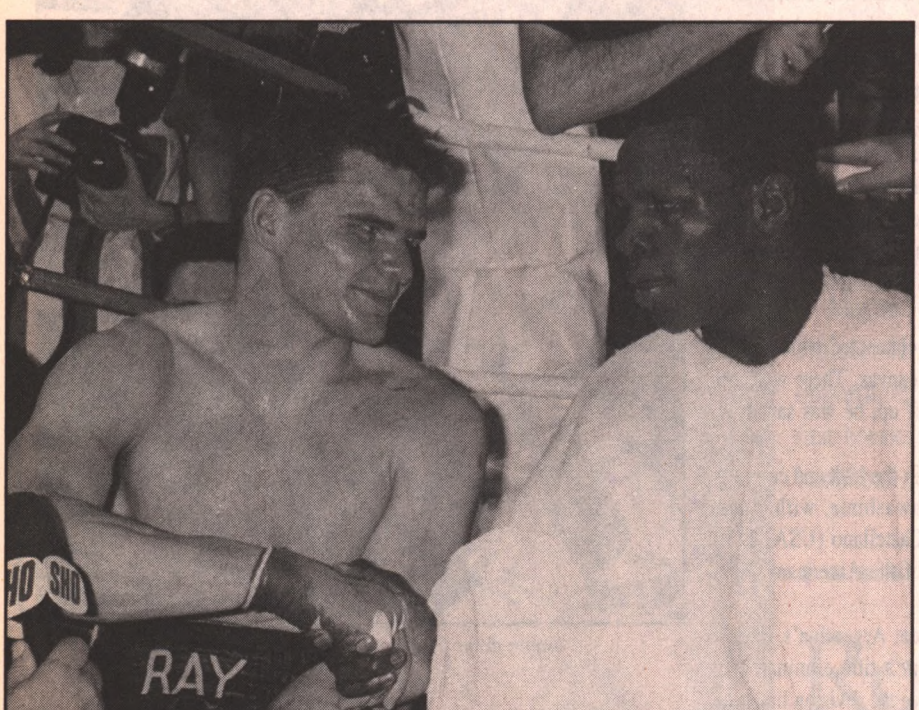


Photo by Action Images

Yet another Close encounter for Eubank

Chris Eubank W 12 Ray Close

Belfast, Northern Ireland: There was nothing comprehensive about this split decision for super middleweight Eubank, 168, Brighton, England, in his rematch with the game but hesitant Close, 167, Belfast, Northern Ireland, before a crowd of 8,000 at the King's Hall. And there was certainly nothing that will give the division's leader, IBF champion James Toney, a sleepless night.

The enigmatic Eubank spent more time sneering at the crowd and his opponent than concentrating on an efficient night's work. Whether he is capable of applying himself for a whole 12 rounds is decidedly questionable, as his ability to concentrate completely for three minutes of any round. If he had endured his first defeat, he would have had little ground for complaint.

There was no doubt Eubank, 37-0-2 (19), was aided by Close's failure to punch often enough, and his lack of power when he did. Ultimately, Close, 20-3-1 (10), was too indecisive, failing to grab the initiative when it was there for the taking.

(The fighters struggled to a draw in May 1993.)

Eubank seemed intent on bringing a quick finish—he had bet £1,000 on himself at 66-1 to score a stoppage within the first two rounds. However, his timing was just off. At the start of the second, a left hook troubled Close, but he doggedly fought back, resisting some solid Eubank shots.

Close began to find his range in the third, scoring with snappy lead lefts. In the fourth he began to mix his shots, though still wary of leaving himself unprotected. The Irishman carried most of the middle rounds, but Eubank finally picked his spot with a minute to go in the 10th with a long right followed by a jarring right uppercut. Close did well to stay on his feet, but remained conspicuously negative for the remainder of the round and the next.

Showing the strains of yet another distance fight, Eubank surrendered the final round but had done the bare minimum to win. Gene Glen (USA) scored a lopsided 118-112 for Eubank, while Dr. Clark Sammartino had the Englishman in front by 115-114. Roy Francis (England) saw it 117-114 for Close. THE RING scored 114-114. The referee was Paul Thomas (England).

Promoters: Don King and Frank Warren

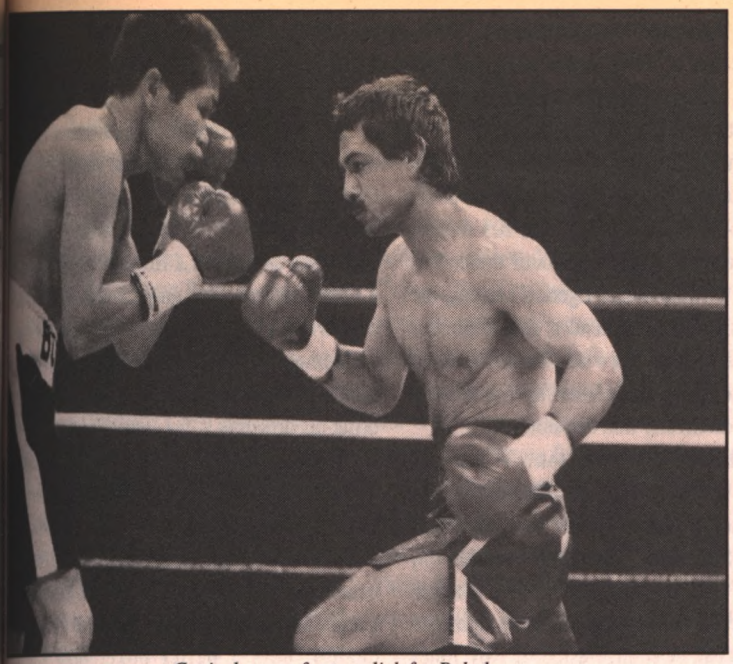
(5-21-94)

Brian Doogan

Orlando Canizales KO 5 Rolando Bohol

South Padre Island, Texas: Despite reigning during an era of diluted titles, there's no arguing IBF bantamweight champion Canizales belongs with Carlos Zarate, Jeff Chandler, Panama Al Brown, and Manuel Ortiz at the top of the division's all-time rankings. This was his 15th consecutive successful defense, tying him with Ortiz for the 118-pound record. Moreover, four weeks after the fight, Canizales was to become the longest-reigning bantie champion in history, breaking Brown's record of 5 years 11 months.

Challenging Canizales at the South Padre Island Convention Center, former world flyweight champion Bohol, 117½, Hawaii via Negros, The Philippines, fought aggressively and landed some solid southpaw rights and lefts. But the blows did little to faze the titleholder. Canizales, 118, Laredo, Texas, buckled Bohol's knees in the last 10 seconds of the third round with a right uppercut and a straight right. Somehow the challenger managed to avoid going down. He returned to his corner smiling.



Canizales was far too slick for Bohol

Bohol, 28, wasn't smiling early in the fifth, though. A left uppercut that split the challenger's guard and a looping right had him out on his feet. Canizales, 37-1-1 (28) with 1 no-contest, landed a left off Bohol's shoulder as the Filipino staggered back, then decked him with a straight right. Flat on his back, Bohol attempted to rise but did no better than one knee. Referee Lawrence Cole (USA) counted him out at the 27-second mark. Bohol, 34-14-1 (7), then sunk back to the canvas, where he was treated cautiously by the ringside physicians.

Interestingly, Bohol was Canizales' first southpaw since Javier Lucas in 1987.

The judges were Leo McCowan (USA), William James (USA), and Roque Garcia Duenas (Colombia).

"I knew I caught him a couple of good shots," said the 28-year-old Canizales, who is boxing's longest-reigning active champion. "I knew it was going to be a big night. I was picking my shots. I'm a good counterpuncher, and that was working for me. I was really surprised when he went down. I honestly thought he was going to get up and come back for more."

Instead, Bohol became just another number on Canizales' record-setting list.

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Productions

(6-7-94)

Bruce Williams

Roy Jones KO 2 Thomas Tate

Las Vegas, Nevada: Making his first defense of the IBF middleweight crown more than a year after winning the vacant title, Jones, 159, Pensacola, Florida, eliminated the trash-talking Tate, 159½, Detroit, Michigan, via devastating TKO 30 seconds into the second round before a crowd of 4,116 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

The victory helped clear the way for a sensational matchup; should IBF super middleweight champion James Toney get by Prince Charles Williams on July 29, he'll defend against Jones on October 1.

Almost from the day the fight was signed, the 28-year-old Tate, ranked first by the IBF, never stopped degrading the skills of Jones. The dissing continued through the prefight press conference and all the way to referee Richard Steele's final instructions. Jones waited until the opening bell to answer.

Jones, 26-0 (23), instantly surprised Tate, 29-3 (21), with his hand speed, landing three mean combinations to the body and head. Though clearly shaken, Tate responded with three lefts, but Jones was unaffected. Jones fought back with right hands that snapped back his opponent's head and forced him to retreat.

Whatever confidence Tate retained instantly evaporated early in the second. Jones caught him on the jaw with a sledgehammer in leather that was disguised as a left hook. The challenger was suddenly flat on his back in ring center. Only the instincts of a warrior enabled him to rise, but he was glassy-eyed and had no conception of Steele's count. Fortunately, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Tate's trainer, sensed his fighter's distress and rushed along the apron to a neutral corner, where he leaned into the ring and wrapped his arms around Tate's waist. Steele immediately signaled the end at the 30-second mark.

"At the very end of the [first] round, Thomas got caught with some good shots," said Muhammad. "And I wasn't gonna take any chances if Tate didn't shake it off the next round."

"Nobody has ever really seen me fight," said the 25-year-old Jones. "They've only seen me punch. Tonight he wanted to fight and I said, 'Okay, baby, let's go, let's go!' When somebody challenges me, I do what I have to do. All the talk Tate was doing before the fight and in the ring really didn't bother me. Maybe I'm soft-hearted."

Jones earned $600,000 and Tate $200,000.

The judges were Jerry Roth, Don O'Neil, and Tom McDonough, all from the USA.

(5-27-94)

Jack Welsh ■

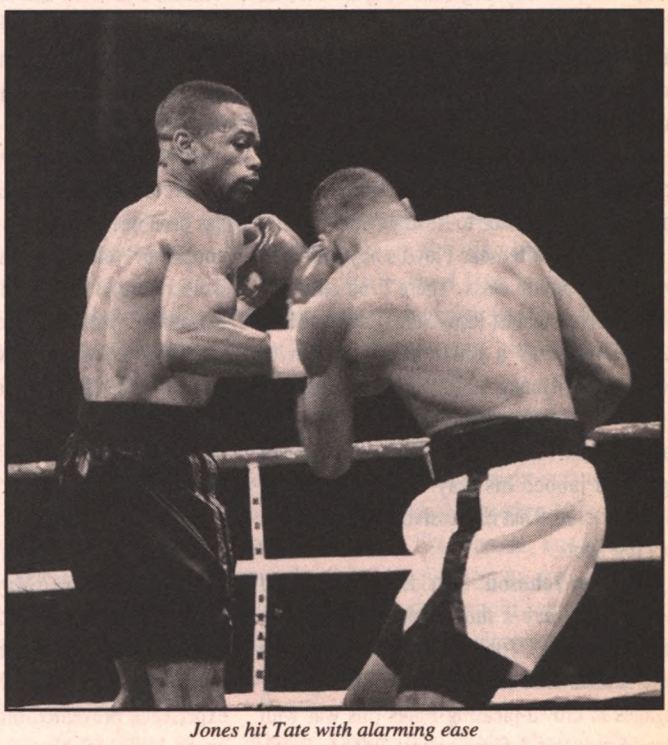


Photo by Tom Casino

Jones hit Tate with alarming ease

Rating the Champs

(Continued from page 39)

Jeff Harding have compounded the problem by avoiding each other. Hill has retained his speed, and his jab is one of boxing's best. But that's all there is.

21. Julio Borboa: No reigning world champion has come as far as this 115-pounder. In 1990, his manager abandoned him in Hermosillo, Mexico, after a kayo loss to Cuauhtemoc Gomez. Now Borboa is a respected titlist who has made five successful defenses. And with Marco Antonio Barrera jumping to bantamweight, there's no doubt the counterpuncher is the best junior bantie in the world.

22. Nigel Benn: Five years ago, "The Dark Destroyer" was a pure puncher, and nothing more. Few bashers add boxing skills to their repertoire in mid-stream. Benn has done just that, and now he's capable of outboxing or outpunching his foes. He was impressive in fighting to a draw with arch-rival Chris Eubank (most observers had Benn ahead), and would crush WBA champ Steve Little. Only James Toney seems out of his depth.

23. Lennox Lewis: Legitimate champion or not, Lewis has the size and right-hand power to compete with any big man. Stylewise, he presents huge problems for Michael Moorer. Riddick Bowe, however, would be a different story. Sorry, but victories over the likes of Tony Tucker, Phil Jackson, and Oliver McCall aren't going to move Lewis into the top 10. We believe he's willing to fight the best, but circumstances continue to frustrate him.

24. Tracy Patterson: Floyd's boy isn't long for the 122-pound class. There'll be only one more defense (against Jesus Salud), unless HBO suddenly deems a unification bout with Kennedy McKinney worthy of their time and money. Normally a pressure fighter and bodypuncher, Patterson switched up in his last fight and jabbed his way to a victory over Richard Duran. That impressive win moved him up a few spots.

25. Tom Johnson: Outside of John David Jackson, is there a more obscure American world champion? Too bad, because Johnson is quite skilled. And unlike Jackson, he regularly engages in crowd-pleasing fights (his war with Troy Dorsey, his defense against Orlando Soto). A proposed showdown with Patterson would be in "Boom Boom's" best interest. He'll probably win, and in the process secure some exposure and recognition.

26. Henry Maske: Combine Maske's difficult southpaw style with his home court advantage—he defends only in his native Germany—and he might reign until the end of the century. Powerpuncher Egerton Marcus, the leading available IBF contender, should present a serious challenge. Otherwise, Maske will keep jabbing, crossing, and clinching his way to victory in a dreadfully thin division.

27. John David Jackson: When the southpaw won the WBA middleweight title from Reggie Johnson, insiders reacted with a collective "So what?" The major bouts at 160 pounds don't figure to include Jackson, who has obvious talent—he's a fine defensive fighter—but zero appeal. A strange aside: If Roy Jones and Gerald McClellan move up, Jackson will become the division's longest-reigning titlist before making a single defense.

Editor's note: In late-May, the WBA stripped Jackson for engaging in a non-title fight without its permission. *(See "Round One" on page 8.)* As we went to press, the matter was to be decided in court.

28. Al Cole: Perhaps a generous placement, but we figure Cole offers a greater upside than most champions. Granted, his opposition has been humble, but he looked good against Vincent Boulware and seems to be improving. The question: At 6'4", will he jump to heavyweight before establishing himself as a dominant cruiser champ? Second question: Whatever happened to that 190-pound unification tournament?

29. Ike Quartey: This Ghana-born bomber has been one of boxing's best-kept secrets for a couple of years. In June, he won the WBA welterweight title by stopping the talented Crisanto Espana in 11 rounds. "Bazooka" is a vicious hitter. While we wouldn't dare compare him to WBC champ Pernell Whitaker, he may be on a par with IBF titlist Felix Trinidad. In fact, a Trinidad-Quartey matchup is among the best we could hope for.

30. Julio Cesar Vasquez: Too low a ranking for a champion who has made eight successful defenses? Maybe so. But in his last effort, the Argentine southpaw desperately tried to give the title to unknown Russian Ahmet Dottuev. Only the challenger's lack of experience prevented him from pulling off an upset. Vasquez' biggest asset is strength, not skill. He's beaten only one championship-caliber foe (Aaron Davis), and we doubt the best is ahead.

31. Rafael Ruelas: It now seems certain that Ruelas will be matched carefully (Carl Griffith, Billy Schwer) until a 1995 showdown with fellow Southern Californian and Mexican-American Oscar De La Hoya. While Ruelas is a 42-fight veteran, he's only 22, and time is not a concern. He's an exciting, gutty fighter who welcomes confrontations and possesses one-punch power. Beware: A reckless style could bring his downfall.

32. Chana Porpaoin: While Thailand's speedy Porpaoin doesn't compare favorably with fellow strawweight champion Ricardo Lopez, he's compiled a glossy record, having beaten good fighters in Hideyuki Ohashi and Carlos Murillo. The most complete Thai world champ: he's a better boxer than Phichit Sithbangprachan and Ratanapol Sow Vorapin, and a better puncher than San Sow Ploenchit.

33. Gianfranco Rosi: The champion we love to hate has been matched so very carefully, and he's more difficult to watch than reruns of *My Mother The Car*. We suppose we have to say *something* nice about him, so we'll point out that he's the longest-reigning 154-pounder champion in division history. At 36, he won't be around much longer. But he now fights for Don King, so anything's possible.

34. San Sow Ploenchit: Forget the fact that you can't spell or pronounce his name ("Pat, I'd like to buy a vowel, please"). This tall, 21-year-old master boxer, who is considered the reincarnation of Pone Kingpetch in his native Thailand, proved his mettle in dethroning the outstanding David Griman in February. Given that Thai champions rarely stray from home, look for him to enjoy a lengthy reign.

35. Wilfredo Vasquez: When left-hooker Vasquez took the WBA junior featherweight title from Raul Perez in 1992, we guessed his reign would be brief. Wrong. Vasquez, 32, has beaten a reasonable level of opposition (Thierry Jacob, Luis Mendoza, Yuichi Kasai), and, more impressively, has done so on the road. If he gets by Jae Won Choi and avoids Welcome Ncita, he should stick around a while.

36. Nazarov Olzubek: If you remember the speed and defensive wizardry of former unified lightweight champion Pernell Whitaker, you'll snicker at this raw Japan-based southpaw. But Olzubek is strong and rock-hard, and he'll wear down anyone he can hit. At the international level, his only accomplishments are a pair of

s over Dingaan Thobela. A defense against mer titlist Joey Gamache should be icularly revealing.

37. **Eloy Rojas:** The Venezuelan is the test-hitting featherweight in the world, but if w 126-pound champions Kevin Kelley and n Johnson fought smartly, they'd outfinesse n. Give Rojas credit for unseating long-ging Korean Kyun Yung Park on the road. upcoming defense against former junior ther champion Luis Mendoza, who is a er counterpuncher, will tell us lots more.

38. **Katsuya Onizuka:** Chris Eubank is not only world-class fighter who has survived a w of questionable decisions. "Spanky" mka, who showed plenty of potential upon ning the WBA 115-pound title in 1992, has ly edged Khaoyai Mahasarakam, Kotaro gushi, and Seung Koo Lee. The stylish, 5'8" mpion is clearly vulnerable; if he can't box a safe distance, he lacks the muscle to

39. **Jake Rodriguez:** Given "The Snake's" mentum, he might jump 10 spots after every defense. Dismissed as a clubfighter before ting Charles Murray, Rodriguez has turned a tricky southpaw who excels in the late ds. He's no puncher, but ever since he red with Pernell Whitaker, it hasn't ered. Watch this guy; the title has made 40 percent better.

40. **Juan Coggi:** At 32, this Argentine thpaw seems near the end. He was far ker than good in surviving his first fight Eder Gonzalez, and he had to climb off the in the rematch. He's apparently priced self out of a unification bout with Julio r Chavez and will continue to be matched dily. (The WBA's top 10 isn't particularly idating.) A good fighter in his prime, with qualizer of a straight left.

41. **Yasuei Yakushiji:** Gone are the days the WBC bantamweight title was the most ic in boxing. Yakushiji, a tall Japanese with od jab and a strong right hand, beat Jung Il , who beat Victor Rabanales, who beat ro Tatsuyoshi, who beat Greg Richardson. re's not a hall of famer in the bunch. We Yakushiji in his first defense, a stoppage of ino Suarez. No reason to think he'll be a g-term champ.

42. **Anaclet Wamba:** Those who have been peting the emergence of the cruiser class to forget about the 34-year-old Wamba, helps weigh down the division. It's not that Congo-born stand-up boxer is a bad fighter; he's only lost twice, with one of the defeats coming at heavyweight, and the other via disqualification. Rather, he's boring, he only fights in France, and his competition has been of the who-cares variety.

43. **Phichit Sithbangprachan:** We love flyweights who can bang, but in consecutive defenses against Arthur Johnson and Jose Luis Zepeda, this Thai has been fortunate to emerge with his belt. Sithbangprachan lacks speed and skill, and at age 28, he's not a candidate for a lengthy reign. There are at least three fighters in the WBC's top 10 who are better. When Phichit pitches it, he's sure fun to watch, though.

44. **Leo Gamez:** After this Venezuelan lost three consecutive title fights in 1990-'91 (the only three losses of his career), he seemed through. But he hung around, then won the vacant WBA junior flyweight title last October. Gamez is 30, which is Social Security age for a fighter his weight. He can still punch, and can still be outboxed. This ranking may be a bit harsh, but we can't envision more than one or two more successful defenses.

45. **Ratanapol Sow Vorapin:** Only 21, this Thai strawweight could turn into a tiny terror. After winning only seven of his first 10 fights, he's developed into an intimidating champion. At least by 105-pound standards, he's beaten some pretty good challengers, including division hotshot Ala Villamor. However, we'd like to see him fight outside of his homeland. Just once.

46. **Hiroshi Kawashima:** We saw this powerpunching lefty win the title from Jose Luis Bueno, and he was only mildly impressive. He showed decent hand and foot speed, but minimal upper body and head movement. Moreover, his punches were wide and telegraphed. Consider this an introductory ranking; we'll move him up if he proves to be something more than a one-hit wonder.

47. **Jeff Harding:** We remember Fritzie Zivic better than Harding, who hasn't fought since December 1992. If you're wondering why he hasn't been stripped of the title, well, we're wondering, too. (Send your queries to THE RING and we'll forward them to WBC President Jose Sulaiman.) Strong and rugged but terribly limited, Harding wasn't that good when he was active. His first fight back will be against Mike McCallum. End of reign.

48. **John Michael Johnson:** We know this Texan kayoed Junior Jones, who was a candidate for the pound-for-pound top 10. But until we're proven wrong, we're going to presume the upset was more a case of Jones being off than Johnson being on. As we went to press, Johnson was scheduled to make his first defense on the road against Thailand's Daorung Chuwatana. Unless he scores a knockout, he won't leave Bangkok with his belt.

49. **Steve Little:** Sorry, Steve, but somebody has to be last. Little has lost 13 times in 37 fights; he's been beaten by world champions (Mark Breland, Robert Hines, Terry Norris), contenders (Davey Hilton, Tyrone Trice), and no-names (Tony Montgomery, Joe Summers, Dave Gutierrez); and his kayo percentage is .227. He caught Michael Nunn on the right night and still barely won on points. We doubt there's a top-10 contender who's safe for him. ■

Ruelas

(Continued from page 42)

"Arum said I wanted too much money to fight him," Hernandez laments. "How can that be? I'm the champion. Not him." He pledges to follow De La Hoya up to lightweight if that's what it will take. Please, he says, make him an offer.

Not that everyone figures De La Hoya is a pushover. He's a terrific fighter who can move and throw big punches with either hand. But because he's relatively inexperienced as a pro, he will probably be easier to beat now than later. Not surprisingly, everybody wants him now.

Says Ruelas, "The fact that De La Hoya's getting big money doesn't get me mad. I'm making good money. I'm happy. I don't focus on the money at all. But if he honestly thinks he's better, that's why I look forward to the fight. Sure, I know he might improve. But you know, I might improve, too." Ruelas recently turned 23. De La Hoya is 22.

De La Hoya thinks Ruelas' stand-up style is made for his textbook hooks to the body. But, Ruelas says, "I'll get inside, right next to him. That nullifies his hook. He needs a little bit of distance. He doesn't like it inside. You know, I sparred with him before he got in the Olympics." They also fought two amateur matches, with De La Hoya winning the first and Ruelas the second.

Despite standing 5'11", Ruelas, 135, Sylmar, California, loves to fight inside, which is where

he took apart the 28-year-old Evgen, 135, St. Paul, Minnesota. A fast starter, the rangy champion started round one throwing strong jabs from the outside—he enjoyed a six-inch reach advantage—and occasionally following with rights. Halfway through the round he connected with a crunching left hook to the jaw. It was a turning point. Name a combination and Ruelas threw it. The 5'5" Evgen kept trying, but by the end of the round his head was snapping around like a pinball. In total, Ruelas threw a staggering 144 punches.

During the rest period, Goossen told Ruelas to go after the liver, and Ruelas indeed mixed in some left hooks to the body. He was like a batter hitting them where the infielders ain't. No matter where Evgen, 25-3 (12), put his gloves to ward off the blows, Ruelas landed somewhere else.

Evgen's own punches grew weaker. Still, he pushed them out on instinct, refusing to go down. In round two, Ruelas fired an amazing 161 times. Round three was more of the same. At the 2:53 mark, Evgen's corner and Halpern reached the same conclusion: enough. Halpern intervened just as the towel sailed in.

The judges were Fred Jones, Glen Hamada, and Art Lurie, all from the USA.

"Surprisingly enough, he took a lot of my punches," said Ruelas. "But I knew it was just a matter of time."

***

In July 1991, Ruelas learned all about time. His only loss was his embarrassing highlight-film two-round knockout at the hands of Mauro Gutierrez. Ruelas, who looked fully recovered from a knockdown, stayed on one knee as he'd been trained to do, waiting for the signal from Goossen. That signal came a split-second after the referee had tolled 10.

"I couldn't see the referee from where I was," Goossen recalls, "so I lost the count. I take full blame-slash-credit for the knockout. I say credit because it got us a lot of exposure and made Rafael more appealing to Jorge Paez."

That November, Ruelas-Paez turned into one of the biggest fights ever held at the Great Western Forum. It was a classic Latino matchup between L.A. and Mexico, with L.A.'s Ruelas dominating early, surviving a fourth-round scare, and winning by dramatic 10th-round kayo. Should Ruelas ever rumble with De La Hoya, Paez will be a connecting point. As we went to press, De La Hoya was scheduled to face Paez on July 29. Just as Ruelas proved he was world-class by beating the Mexican, De La Hoya will have to pass the same test. While Paez is not as dangerous as during his reign as world featherweight champion, he's still better than anything De La Hoya has faced thus far.

At least in that sense, Ruelas has arrived at where De La Hoya is trying to go. He's come a long way from working the corn fields with 12 brothers and sisters in the mountains of Jalisco State in Mexico. But he still has to chase the really big fights, as opposed to De La Hoya, who, at least until he loses, will always be able to pick and choose.

During this early stage of his title reign, Ruelas can only hope he becomes the first championship-caliber fighter to trade punches with De La Hoya. If that fight indeed materializes next year, the lightweight champion won't lack for confidence, at least partly because Roy Jones, James Toney, and who knows how many other undercard fighters will be in his corner. ■

Ivan G. Goldman teaches journalism at California State University Fullerton.

Golota

(Continued from page 16)

thing. He's strong and getting stronger. Right now he's like a Sonny Liston. He can knock you out with a jab."

The 26-year-old Golota is 19-0 (17). His power is frightening, as is his disdain for his opposition. "It's not just the knockouts," said Duva. "It's the way he does it. He's so mean."

On the Lennox Lewis-Phil Jackson undercard in May, Golota brutally dispatched durable journeyman Terry Davis in one round. Davis was coming off wins over Henry Tillman and David Bey. Among the other trialhorses Golota has beaten are Andre Crowder, Bobby Crabtree, K.P. Porter, and Carlton West.

"I've cross-referenced his opponents, and he's certainly capable of doing what the top heavyweights have done," said O'Donnell. "I was assured that Crabtree [a second-round kayo victim] would give Andrew some rounds and a challenge, but Andrew caught him early. Everybody was expecting more rounds from Davis, too. We would have been grateful for a middle-rounds knockout."

O'Donnell hopes to match Golota with a few fringe contenders before letting him loo on the division's elite. Duva, who took ov training responsibilities shortly after Golo went to camp with Moorer, is far less concern about caution. He has been impressed wi Golota's sparring sessions with Alex Stewa Lennox Lewis, David Tua, and cruiserweig contender Jade Scott, and feels this prospe can't miss.

"I have no problems matching him with m of the top guys," said Duva. "By the end of t year he'll be in the final four."

Duva lists Larry Donald, Jeremy Willia Ray Mercer, Joe Hipp, Alex Garcia, and Bru Seldon among the heavyweights he'd like t match with his Polish puncher.

"The nice thing about Andrew is that h never asks who," said O'Donnell. "Just wh and where."

Like most European fighters, Golota fou standing straight up. Duva has be Americanizing the style. It's helped that Golo has been training with young world-cla prospects such as Raul Marquez and Tua.

"I'm learning still," said Golota. "There' lot of work in front of me."

Golota has never shied from work. Ev though he is married (he met his wife, Mari who was born in Poland but raised in the U when she saw him fight as an amateur n Chicago) and has a three-year-old daugh Golota trains three times a day. In addition his boxing workout, he does aerobics, wei training, and some exercises learned during amateur days that he's reluctant to speak (He's now living in a wide-open world, some things must remain secret.) Whatever regimen consists of, it's been working: 6'4½" Golota turned pro weighing 217 pou and now scales 235.

In Poland, however, he is larger than li He is a huge national hero, and he and Mari dream about the day he can defend t heavyweight title in his native land. "I dream about that," she said. "But we don't a lot about it. We have to concentrate on t first."

First, Golota is concentrating on fighti more and more rounds. "I know I have to hav confrontation with a good opponent," he said. don't care who it is. I have to win. This is w I care about. This is my work."

And in this country, in this sport, rewards for a job well-done are likely to surp

ything he and Mariola ever dreamed of. ■

Robert Cassidy, a frequent contributor to THE RING, *is based in Farmingdale, New York.*

De La Hoya

(Continued from page 23)

most as hard as Campanella had.

"Box! Use your jab!" Alcazar screamed. De La Hoya wasn't smiling anymore.

De La Hoya listened to his trainer, and in rounds two and three, he got even, not angry. Campanella stopped punching, largely because his opponent seemed a football field away. There were two knockdowns in the second—the first included four punches while Campanella was on one knee, and the second came after the bell—and two more in the third. At the 38-second mark, Cortez called a halt as a towel of surrender fluttered into the ring.

It's difficult to find fault with a third-round knockout victory, but fighters like De La Hoya are not measured by standard means. Given the quality of his opposition, he hasn't yet passed the stage of his career where how he does is more important than how he looks in doing it. And in two of his last three fights, De La Hoya has won in a most ugly way: by picking himself up off the canvas. Golden Boys aren't supposed to win ugly.

Insiders are no longer wondering how De La Hoya would have done had he rushed into title fights against established 130-pound world champions John-John Molina and Genaro Hernandez. The answer is obvious. Instead, they're wondering about something more basic: Can he take a punch?

"You have to consider his chin suspect," said Steve Nelson, who, along with Robert Mittleman, managed De La Hoya from the start of his pro career through the end of 1993. "It's no shame to be knocked down by a world-class fighter, but when the easy ones start sending you to the canvas, you have a problem.

"Whenever Oscar's sparring partners started throwing lots of punches and putting on pressure, he wanted to get them out of camp. It was a sign he didn't like getting hit."

"Getting hit and going down against mediocre opposition—sure there's reason to be skeptical," said HBO analyst Larry Merchant. "It's all connected to this obsession with fighting at 130 pounds in hopes of winning bogus titles, and many, many titles over the course of his career. Fighting at 130, perhaps he has been weakening himself by not strengthening himself. It seems to me this is all part of the process of finding his natural weight and division.

"Also, he's fighting in a very positive style, a boxer-puncher who keeps coming forward. Anyone who fights in that style, trying to make something happen, is going to get hit."

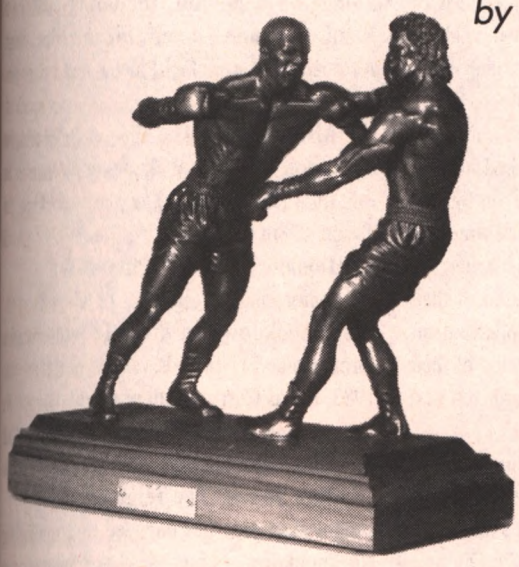
Predictably, Alcazar doesn't agree with the assessments of Nelson and Merchant. In fact, he says he's unconcerned by the knockdowns.

"Somebody with experience would know there's nothing wrong with Oscar's chin, because of the way he's responding with his legs," he said. "I'm *sure* there's nothing wrong with his chin. To see what kind of chin he has,

(Continued on page 56)

KO

by Niels Andersen



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De La Hoya

(Continued from page 55)

you have to wait for better competition. No one's given him a test yet.

"The first knockdown [against Valenzuela] was a surprise, a flash knockdown and nothing to worry about. The second one he was a little bit hurt. He was distracted, and basically this guy woke him up. His mind was on the moment and not the fight. He was fine in the dressing room, nice and warmed up, but the walk to the ring took a long time and his eyes were chasing all over the place. You should leave those things for after the fight. I had to catch his attention in the corner."

While Merchant acknowledged that De La Hoya has "responded well" to the knockdowns, he added, "you have to recognize that most high-profile prospects come through this stage of their careers without these blemishes." True or not? Here's a look at the early bouts of a few recent superstars who, like De La Hoya, turned pro under intense scrutiny.

•Muhammad Ali: It seems ridiculous to question the chin of a fighter who shook off the biggest blows of punchers like George Foreman and Earnie Shavers, but before Ali (then Cassius Clay) challenged Sonny Liston for the world title, most experts predicted he'd be beheaded. That was partly because Ali had been floored by Sonny Banks in the first round of his 11th pro bout and, seven fights later, Henry Cooper's fabled left hook had driven him to the canvas. Like De La Hoya, Ali picked himself up and quickly scored stoppages in both fights.

After winning the title for the first time, Ali suffered only two knockdowns in 41 bouts; Joe Frazier dropped him in the 15th round of their first fight, and Chuck Wepner stepped on his foot and downed him in the ninth round of their 1975 mismatch. Ali's chin ranks with the best in the division's history.

•Sugar Ray Leonard: No blemishes here. Aware that he was handling a supremely gifted fighter, Angelo Dundee matched Leonard aggressively from the start of the 1976 Olympic gold medalist's career. Leonard fought 25 times before dethroning WBC welterweight champion Wilfred Benitez. Among his more familiar victims were Willie Rodriguez, Randy Shields, Pete Ranzany, Mando Muniz, Tony Chiaverini, and Adolpho Viruet, all of whom were, at one point or another, top-10 contenders. He suffered no knockdowns. In his 22nd fight, he was staggered by Marcos Geraldo, a full-fledged middleweight, but quickly recovered and registered a decision victory.

Leonard's first trip to the canvas came in his comeback bout against Kevin Howard in 1984. In subsequent bouts, he was floored by Don Lalonde, Thomas Hearns, and Terry Norris. In his prime, however, his chin was among boxing's best.

•Pernell Whitaker: There are some obvious parallels to De La Hoya. Like the Golden Boy, "Sweet Pea" was dazzling in winning an Olympic gold medal at 132 pounds. And like De La Hoya, Whitaker suffered a pair of knockdowns early in his pro career that led insiders to point to his chin as an obvious weakness. In Whitaker's ninth fight, he was dropped in round four by Rafael Williams, who, while no pillow puncher, was hardly known as a slugger. Three fights later, the southpaw was in control against Roger Mayweather when "The Mamba" struck with a right hand in the ninth round. At least in the case of Mayweather, Whitaker was able to claim the knockdown had come against a legitimate kayo artist.

You can't knock down what you can't hit. Whitaker hasn't been down since the Mayweather fight, which came more than seven years ago. And he's faced some good punchers along the way, too, including Jose Luis Ramirez, Louie Lomeli, Freddie Pendleton, Azumah Nelson, Rafael Pineda, and Julio Cesar Chavez.

•Mike Tyson: The former heavyweight champion suffered no knockdowns until his title fight loss to Buster Douglas in 1990. It was Tyson's 38th fight.

•Donald Curry: The former welterweight and junior middleweight champion suffered his first knockdown in his title-winning performance at 147 pounds vs. Jun Sok Hwang in 1983. It was Curry's 16th pro fight. Later in his career, and long after his prime, his chin became a major liability.

•Roy Jones: The reigning IBF middleweight champion has engaged in 26 pro bouts. No knockdowns thus far. Like Whitaker, he rarely takes a clean hit.

•Riddick Bowe: The former heavyweight champion hasn't been down in 35 pro bouts. There's been no reason to doubt his chin.

•Michael Carbajal: The former junior flyweight champion suffered the only two

knockdowns of his career in his Fight of the ear kayo victory over Chiquita Gonzalez in March 1993. Gonzalez won the rematch, but ored no knockdowns. Carbajal has had 32 pro outs.

***

There's a chance, of course, that Oscar De La Hoya will become a great fighter. A good chance. If that happens, the knockdowns will be attributed to growing pains and forgotten just as quickly as the names Narciso Valenzuela and Giorgio Campanella. But until De La Hoya realizes his potential, his chin will remain a question mark. No one's picking on him; it's been that way for hot prospects since heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan was searching for adequate competition 110 years ago. For every Cassius Clay and Pernell Whitaker, who survived early-career knockdowns to become long-reigning champions and superstars, there's a Howard Davis Jr. and Mark Breland, who were ultimately unable to overcome their inability to absorb punishment.

"These kind of events in a young fighter's life make us say, 'Prove yourself to us,'" Merchant said of the knockdowns suffered by De La Hoya. "They add a burden of proof."

A burden that only greatness will relieve. ■

Heavys

(Continued from page 27)

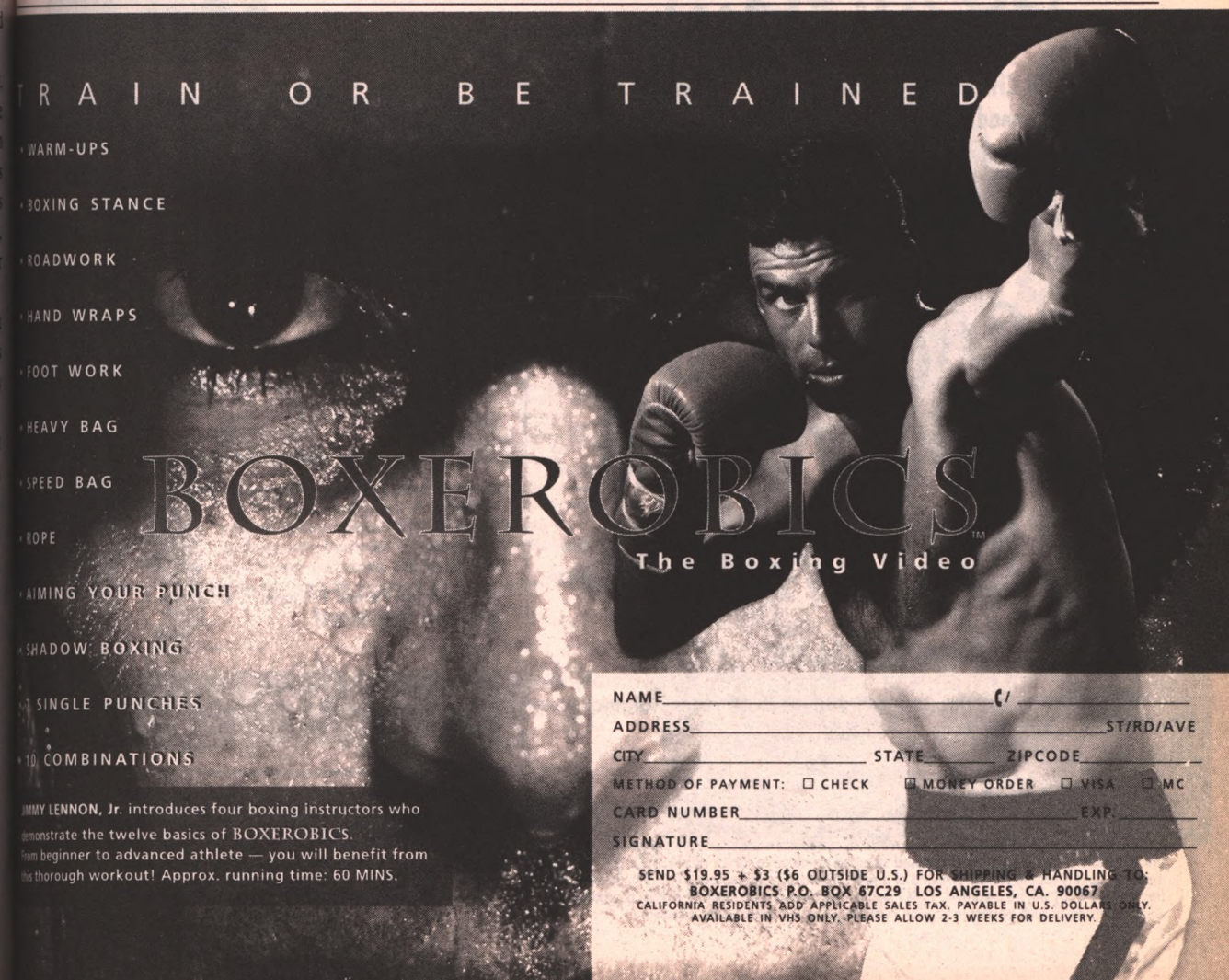
case in this sow-and-reap system, bad times follow good, and the current crop seems unacceptable. *(See page 14.)*

Besides the waxing and waning of talent, there's another factor that creates the impression that things are worse than they really are. Enormous talents like Dempsey, Louis, and Ali tend to overshadow their contemporaries, even those who are accomplished performers in their own right. Fans might have gone bonkers over Michael Moorer and Lennox Lewis back in the 1940s, when Louis was bowling over the likes of Johnny Paycheck and Gus Dorazio. They just don't seem particularly appealing with the memory of Tyson's reign of terror fresh in our minds.

There were, however, two glorious periods when a plethora of marvelous heavyweights walked the planet. The most obvious of these was during the early-'70s, when Ali, Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, George Foreman, Ron Lyle, Jerry Quarry, and Earnie Shavers treated fans to the greatest series of competitive fights in heavyweight history. The other epoch of excellence came in the last decade of the 19th century. Not only were champions Jim Corbett, Bob Fitzsimmons, and Jeffries superb fighters, but contenders Peter Jackson, Joe Choynski, Tom Sharkey, and Bob Armstrong were also first-class.

So what does it all mean? What conclusions can we draw from this look at heavyweight highs and lows? First, let's acknowledge that the big boys, as a group, produce far fewer quality fighters than the divisions below. That's a given we're just going to have to live with. Having said that, we should also concede that

(Continued on page 59)



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1939-104

Heavys

(Continued from page 57)

matter how inferior the heavyweights seem any particular time, they're bound to improve we wait long enough. Of course, that doesn't ean we can't exercise our Constitutional right complain about it in the meantime.

The heavyweight division stinks worse than outhouse ... ■

Taylor

(Continued from page 31)

tober 1992 loss to Espana, handler Lou Duva pressed his opinion that for Taylor's own ell-being, he shouldn't be allowed to fight gain. Duva's altruism aside, Taylor felt andoned by the man he had been associated with since the start of his professional career.

"I don't know whether he did it out of anger or what, but he spoke inappropriately, at a time when the last thing I needed to hear was something that negative," Taylor said. "And I don't let anybody dictate to me how things should be for my best interests."

The split with Duva also meant breaks with co-trainer George Benton, promoter Dan Duva, and lawyer Joe Cardona. In other words, the fighter was left alone. Taylor feels it was a sort of blessing: "It's good to have that sort of a break. Then you know the true people that support you."

A seven-month layoff followed. Taylor returned to the ring on the undercard of Chavez-Terrence Alli. He scored an easy TKO of Henry Hughes, a clubfighter from Cleveland. With the Duvas no longer in control of his career, he began his association that night with the one man whom he felt could guide him to a rematch with Chavez: Don King.

According to Mike Marley, King's spokesman, Taylor sought out the powerful promoter, and King needed certain reassurances before getting involved.

"Don wanted to make sure Meldrick was completely healthy," Marley explained, "so he asked him to go to the Cleveland Clinic, where Meldrick was put through a set of tests and was pronounced physically fine by the doctors there. Don had made [the examination] a pre-requisite."

For the Hughes fight, Taylor also needed a new trainer. He found Aaron Snowell, who had previously trained Mike Tyson. Since then, he has also had former heavyweight champion Greg Page in his corner. However, Taylor has no steady trainer.

Another crucial addition has been nutritionist Shiloh Bey. According to Lou Duva, one of Taylor's weaknesses had been his attitude toward conditioning.

"The problem was his lifestyle between fights," said Duva. "He would blow up to at least 155 pounds and then had to spend his time trying to get in condition at training camp instead of concentrating on learning about his opponents."

(Continued on page 60)

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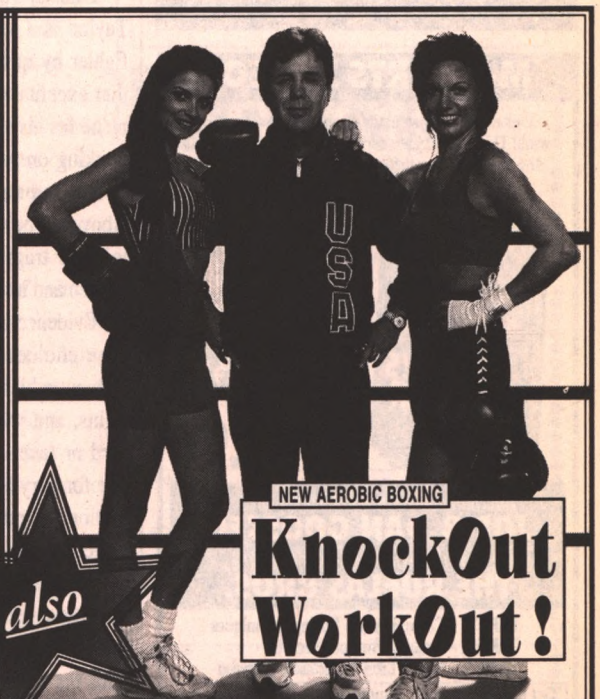

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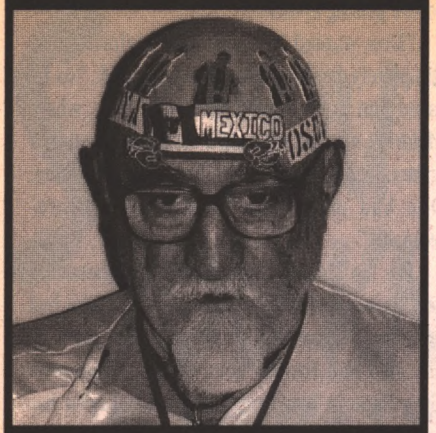

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Taylor

(Continued from page 59)

Taylor has repeatedly denied the allegation. Nonetheless, to ensure a consistent level of physical readiness, Bey's services have been enlisted. In addition to prescribing a strict diet, says Taylor, Bey has helped provide a philosophy.

"It's a holistic approach," Taylor explained. "I know me better, understand me better, understand the world better. I can deal with any situation now; things don't frustrate or depress me. I'm a healthier person, and always in control."

Taylor is now self-managed, though what King doesn't handle is taken care of by Dansky. In August 1993, a mutual friend introduced Dansky to Taylor. At that point, Taylor was not entirely pleased with the way his comeback was proceeding and had actually retired briefly. The lawyer couldn't believe Taylor was through at age 26.

Dansky seems genuinely concerned with Taylor as a person. He knows boxing passes a fighter by quickly, and is preparing Taylor for that eventuality. In an attempt to try to find a niche for his fighter in the business world, he is working on various product endorsement deals with companies such as Timex and Asics. Above all, he wants to be certain Taylor will not join the tragic ranks of boxers who wind up broken and broke soon after they stop fighting.

Evidence is mounting that Taylor has made wise choices about the people who directly influence his career. King has arranged three fights, and while Taylor has yet to headline a card or face a top-10 opponent, he's again in line for a try at a world title. Bey has sharpened Taylor's mind and body. And Dansky is not a typical agent; Taylor is the only professional athlete he represents. Moreover, according to the attorney, he has not "seen one dime" of the fighter's recent earnings, and prefers to wait until the fighter is given a chance to reach his goals before receiving any remuneration.

However, all of the support will not help Taylor against a quality opponent if he is indeed, as many have suggested, a shot fighter.

After the loss to Chavez, Taylor felt he could no longer make the 140-pound limit. Two fights later he won his second title, outpointing Aaron Davis for the WBA welterweight title and in the process punching holes in the belief that the Chavez fight had ruined him. After an uninspired decision victory over Luis Garcia and a non-title knockout victory over Ramon Flores, he defended against the hard-punching Glenwood Brown. Brown dropped the champion twice in the early going. Taylor rallied and won by split decision, but many observers began questioning whether he should have been fighting at a weight where his opponents seemed much stronger.

Meanwhile, a rematch with Chavez was still nowhere in sight. Unhappy with the lack of top-quality opponents available, and fully aware of his tendency to fight best against the best opposition, Taylor opted to move up even further in weight and face WBC super welterweight champion Norris at a compromise weight of 150½ pounds.

Taylor had no speed advantage at all and clearly lacked the strength and power of his opponent. Norris manhandled him en route to a fourth-round TKO. Five months later, Taylor lost the welterweight title to Espana, absorbing even more punishment against a naturally bigger opponent.

Taylor's losses to Norris and Espana should be viewed not as a result of a lack of ability or because the Chavez battle took too much out of him. Blame it on ambition—and bad career management. He wanted to fight the best, and when another chance with Chavez was not forthcoming, he jumped up in weight against a feared fighter in Norris. Taylor wanted to reestablish his dominance. Instead, he ignited his downfall.

Chavez, on the other hand, had no pressing desire for a rematch. In fact, a look at his record reveals that although he fought with tremendous frequency after beating Taylor, in his 18 bouts before facing Pernell Whitaker (a span of more than three years), he never faced any real threats. Only the slippery Hector Camacho and Lonnie Smith went the distance. Chavez' remarkable record is a testament to his greatness. It also reveals sound matchmaking judgment, something the Taylor camp lacked.

"I'm more mature now," claims Taylor, "a stronger fighter, wiser, and I still have the speed."

Since beating Hughes in May 1993, Taylor, scaling 146, took three rounds in January to stop Indiana's Craig Houck, who has fought a series of exhibitions against Marty Jakubowski

faced no one else of note.

Taylor's most recent fight was a two-round workout of one-time prospect Chad Broussard May. It came on the undercard of the Mitchell-Chavez rematch. Taylor weighed a trim 5 and dominated from the start.

Observed Page, "He looked like the Taylor old, except even sharper. He landed some devastating body shots. I don't see no one touching him."

On the other hand, Beau Williford, who manages and trains Broussard, is more critical. "Taylor isn't the fighter he was, but he still has something left," he said. "He landed a lot of low blows in the fight, and hit Broussard solidly on the chin and my fighter didn't go anywhere. The Broussard of a year ago would have knocked Taylor out."

The general public has not seen Taylor fight since the Espana disaster, and repairing a tarnished image is difficult against the Houcks and Broussards of the boxing world. A rematch with Chavez might be a more attractive match if Taylor first defeats a contender. Conventional wisdom, however, suggests he bide his time and fight no-names until Chavez decides it's time. As we went to press, Chavez, who regained the WBC 140-pound crown the night of Taylor-Broussard, was reportedly considering a unification bout with Coggi and a rematch with Taylor.

Clearly, the perfect time for the rematch would have been immediately after the initial bash in 1990. Now, Chavez, too, is perceived to be on his way down. In that sense, Chavez-Taylor II is like the Sugar Ray Leonard-Thomas Hearns rematch, which came more than seven years after the original. Is it too late?

Taylor is surrounded by positives, but it's not difficult to envision Chavez dishing out a beating. A swollen-faced, bleary-eyed Taylor might yet again wind up in the arms of a sympathetic referee. If that occurs, it will be a particularly depressing end to a tremendous career. ■

Cokes

(Continued from page 45)

out, he decisioned Manuel Gonzalez for WBA recognition as welterweight champion in August 1966.

"That fight was dedicated to Cornbread [who had died the year before]," says Cokes.

Gonzalez was a lifelong friend of Cokes. They fought four times, with Cokes winning all but one.

"When that bell rang, he wasn't my friend anymore," Cokes says. "After the fighting was over, we were friends again."

Having finally achieved his goal after eight long years of fighting, the fact that Cokes was finally champion took a while to sink in.

"It took another fight because I really didn't believe you were champion till you could defend that title successfully," says Cokes.

In fact, unlike most new champions whose first official act is to run out and buy a fleet of Mercedes and a diamond-studded collar for the dog, Cokes refused to "spend any money till I got that first title defense under my belt because I didn't know how long I was gonna be champion. And if I couldn't beat [Jean] Josselin, it was probably over for me. That was a big pressure fight for me."

Adding to the pressure when Cokes met France's Josselin in Dallas in November 1966, was a glitch in the scale used at the weigh-in. Cokes came in at 152 pounds, and only after he'd spent quite a few hours in a steam bath was it discovered that the scale had been set incorrectly. The champion went into the ring weighing a gaunt 142, but won a 15-round decision to satisfy himself and the rest of the world, except for California, that he was champion.

By then Griffith had moved to the middleweight division, but instead of joining everyone else in recognizing Cokes as welterweight champion after the Josselin fight, the Golden State conferred its laurels on Charley Shipes, who fought out of Oakland.

That set up the fight Cokes calls his most satisfying and "one of my greatest." He went to Oakland and knocked out Shipes in eight rounds in October 1967.

Cokes held the title for three years and successfully defended it five times. He lost it to the legendary Jose Napoles in April 1969. Napoles stopped him in 13 rounds.

"I was getting older and it was harder to get in shape and make that weight," he says. "If I'd fought him a year before, I think I would've beat him. I watch tapes of that fight and it was sad. I had nothing left."

At the same time, Cokes concedes he was in

(Continued on page 63)

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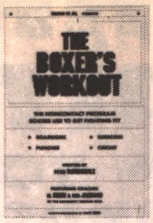

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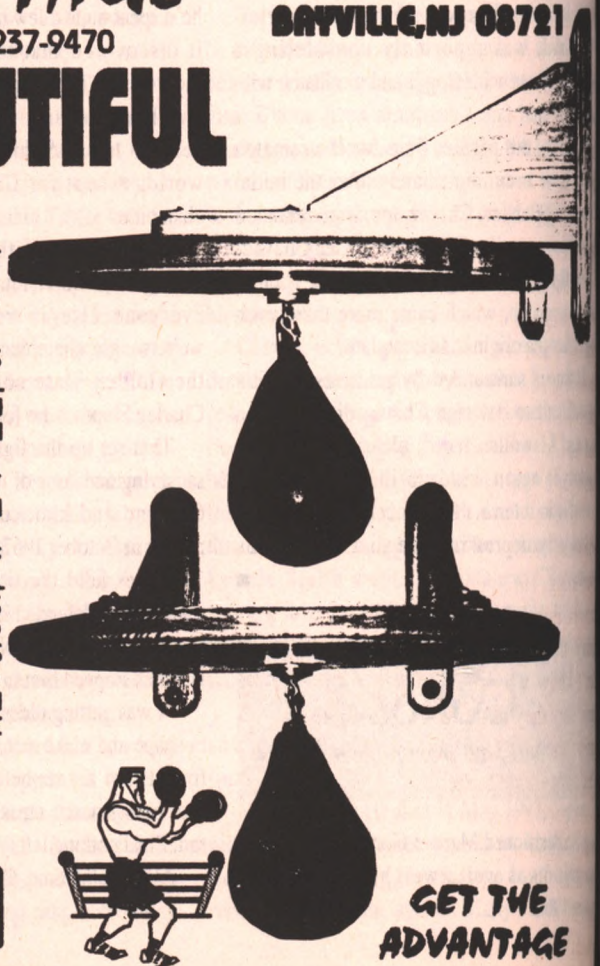

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Cokes

(Continued from page 61)

inst a fighter with extraordinary skills.

"When [Napoles] threw 10 punches, he hit u with 11," he says of the Cuban-born poles, who lived in Mexico and was known "Mantequilla" (butter).

There was a rematch two months later in exico City, but Cokes was stopped again, this e in 10 rounds. "I worked a little harder for e second fight and it went a little better for e," Cokes says. "But he was just a better ghter during that time. He was just too good r me. He turned out to be a great champion."

***

Cokes started boxing at the YMCA in llas when he was 17. A natural athlete, he ayed baseball well enough to get a tryout with e Brooklyn Dodgers just before the team oved to Los Angeles. He was also talented on e basketball court. But boxing appealed the ost to him, and Cokes turned pro in March 58, winning a six-round decision over his end and future foe, Manuel Gonzalez.

Cokes won his first 11 fights, but looking ck, he says, "after 10 fights as a pro, I think I as a good open-class amateur fighter. I was arning how to fight as I fought. That's the rd way."

Too many boxers today, he says, never ther learning the art of boxing at all.

"What makes a good fighter is a guy who's lling to go to the gym and go from step one to p five, and learn everything about boxing in tween. You got to know where and how to ow the punch, and why you throw the punch, d why you're making the move, instead of st using all your natural instincts.

"You have to be smart. The ones that are inners, like Marvin Hagler, learned erything. He knew what would make a guy mmit himself to certain things. These guys day, they're just throwing punches. They n't know why they're throwing the right nd, why they're throwing the hook. They just now 'the guy's up there, I gotta hit him.' hat's not a good boxer.

"A good boxer will figure out what he has o do. Muhammad Ali, he used his natural stincts, but he didn't know anything. He dn't know how to throw a left hook, he uldn't throw an uppercut, he didn't know anything. He was just Muhammad Ali with fast hands. But a good boxer like Joe Louis, he knew everything he was going to do, how to maneuver a guy into a certain position so he could hit him with his right hand and left hook."

Among current fighters, Cokes likes Pernell Whitaker and James Toney ("I think he's from the old school"). But after that, "there's nobody I'd consider great or even good. It's just run-of-the-mill fighters because they win a title today and they lose it tomorrow. A good fighter keeps the title four, five, six years."

After he lost his, Cokes stayed in the ring for three more years as a middleweight. "It wasn't anything serious," he says. "I wasn't really training for those fights hard. I was using my experience, and [promoters] were using my name."

The record book lists 80 bouts for Cokes, but he says the total was actually more than 100. "We had some fights in Waco, Texas, that weren't really sanctioned; we didn't get 'em recorded."

He retired from the ring after boxing one Ezra Mzinyane in Cape Town, South Africa, in October 1972.

"I was having trouble seeing out of my right eye," he says. "I didn't know I had a detached retina, and this guy was throwing hooks at me and I couldn't see 'em. I decided right then that was it."

Not right then, actually. Cokes won a 10-round decision first. He had surgery on his eye after that, and now wears glasses. "I'll never have all the vision back, but I don't have any problems," he says.

Even before he retired, the former champion achieved celluloid fame with a featured role in John Huston's critically acclaimed boxing film, *Fat City*. The Oscar-winning director called Cokes to appear in another movie after that, but his boxing commitments in South Africa precluded it.

After his retirement, Cokes authored a boxing primer that went through five printings and sold more than 77,000 copies. Now 57 and unmarried, Cokes, whose glasses and bald head give him a professorial look, has been working full-time as a trainer since 1985.

"I love to watch young guys I've had coming to my gym since they were 12, 13 years old, and now they're 18 and really starting to come around and do something good," he says.

Cokes trained his brother, Joe Cokes, a fair

(Continued on page 64)

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Cokes

(Continued from page 63)

middleweight, but neither of his two sons (he also has four daughters) cared to follow their famous father into the ring.

"Curtis Jr. was a good athlete, but he didn't like boxing," says Cokes. "I used to go up to school and make kids give him his jacket back."

In the late-'70s, Cokes developed Randy Stephens into a fringe heavyweight contender, and these days he's excited about southpaw Quincy Taylor, who, under the former champion's guidance, has become a top-10 middleweight.

"It's a lot of fun. There's not a lot of money doing what I'm doing, but there's a lot of satisfaction."

Almost as much satisfaction as there would be if another Cokes dream came true.

"I look at my record and compare it with some of the other guys who are in the Hall of Fame, and I think I need to be in there with them," he says. "Some of the guys who get in, they got real poor records. If you look at my record and look at the guys in the top 10 that I fought and that I beat—everybody in the top 10 of the welterweight division in the mid-'60s—I beat most of them. I fought with the best, so I think I deserve to go in the Hall of Fame.

"I want to go in before I'm 900 years old. I want to go in now so I can enjoy it. But you gotta have somebody pushing for you, and nobody's really pushing for me right now."

Well, not exactly nobody. In fact, there's one somebody who is all for the idea of having Cokes finally break that East Coast jinx and win enshrinement among boxing's immortals in Canastota, New York.

"You know," says Cokes, "Emile Griffith's in there, and he and I, we're good friends now. Every time I see him we talk about it and he says, 'Man, you're going in next! You're going in next!'" ■

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to THE RING, ***is based in West Allis, Wisconsin.***

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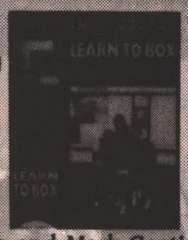

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Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

Next year, be there if you can. Pledge right now to start saving your pennies.

It all happens on one weekend in June. This year, the fifth year, it was June 10, 11, and 12. Induction weekend at the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York, is important to all of boxing, including collectors of memorabilia.

This year, the autograph opportunities included Larry Holmes, Joe Frazier, Michael and Leon Spinks, Joey Maxim, Carmen Basilio, Willie Pep, Sandy Saddler, Bob Foster, Jose Torres, Emile Griffith, Carlos Zarate, Carlos Palomino, Joey Giardello, Buster Mathis Jr., Ruben Olivares, Livingstone Bramble, Aaron Pryor, Gene Fullmer, Eddie Futch, Doug DeWitt, Carlos Ortiz, and reigning heavyweight champion Michael Moorer.

But it wasn't just autographs that attracted collectors. On the 11th, the annual boxing memorabilia show was held at Canastota High School. There were more than 50 tables of memorabilia, from new figurines of famous boxers to a vintage Joe Louis clock. There were programs from Dempsey-Tunney to Moorer-Holyfield, and more tickets and boxing cards than you could shake a glove at. And all the aforementioned fighters were cycled through for free autographs.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Torres, Fullmer, and Basilio were a few of the autograph possibilities in Canastota this year

I picked up signed vintage photos of Jimmy Britt and Leach Cross and a slew of rare Louis programs. I traded for a Johnson-Jeffries watch fob and a unique Gans-Nelson postcard. Others purchased large fight site posters, scrapbooks, magazines, and equipment.

The collectors' show is unique in that far more collectors set up tables than dealers. That's because the IBHF offers a collector's package, which includes a table at the show, two nights of lodging, three meals, and a seat at the Banquet of Champions on Saturday night.

When you consider the other highlights of this year's Hall of Fame weekend—a card of amateur bouts, a three-round exhibition by Larry Holmes, exhibition bouts featuring actor John Amos vs. Gene Fullmer and Amos vs. Carmen Basilio, a golf outing, the induction parade and ceremonies, and all the fun and camaraderie—you can be sure it'll be worth your while to make the trip to Canastota next year.

For more information about the International Boxing Hall of Fame, write executive director Ed Brophy at IBHF, 1 Hall of Fame Drive, Canastota, New York 13032, or phone 315-697-7095. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of Boxing Collector's News and may be contacted through THE RING.

Worldwide Ratings

WBC
as of May

WBA
as of April

IBF
as of May

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	–	C	C
Oliver McCall (USA)	1	1	1
Tony Tucker (USA)	2	2	2
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	12	12
Joe Hipp (USA)	4	6	–
Larry Donald (USA)	5	–	9
Bruce Seldon (USA)	6	3	3
Alexandre Zolkin (RUS)	7	–	–
Larry Holmes (USA)	8	–	–
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	9	10	10
Henry Akinwande (GB)	10	9	6
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	12	4	–
Frans Botha (SA)	20	5	–
Phil Jackson (USA)	16	7	–
Corrie Sanders (SA)	17	8	5
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	–	4
Buster Mathis (USA)	15	–	7
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	1	5	9
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	10	12
Robert Daniels (USA)	3	6	8
Carl Thompson (GB)	4	11	11
Kenny Keene (USA)	5	8	–
Adolpho Washington (USA)	6	–	3
Arthur Williams (USA)	7	1	6
Chemak Saleta (POL)	8	–	10
Jade Scott (USA)	9	–	7
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	10	–	–
Bobby Czyz (USA)	14	2	–
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	3	5
Nate Miller (USA)	–	4	1
James Warring (USA)	23	7	–
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	17	9	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	16	–	2
Richard Mason (USA)	–	–	4

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Mike McCallum (JAM)	IC	4	6
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Frank Tate (USA)	1	1	3
Randall Yonker (USA)	2	11	–
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	3	8	2
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	4	3	7
Charles Williams (USA)	5	–	1
Darius Michalczewski (POL)	6	7	4
Maurice Core (GB)	7	–	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	8	6	10
Ernest Mateen (USA)	9	–	–
Dan Schommer (USA)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	–	2	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	11	5	–
Brent Kosolofski (CAN)	–	9	–
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	10	–
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	13	12	5
John Scully (USA)	28	–	8
Andrea Magi (ITA)	–	–	9

McCallum is the interim WBC champion

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Steve Little (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Frank Liles (USA)	1	1	7
Henry Wharton (GB)	2	10	10
Michael Nunn (USA)	3	3	2
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	4	9	8
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	5	–	–
Tim Littles (USA)	6	7	4
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	7	–	–
Tony Byrd (USA)	8	2	1
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	9	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	10	–	–
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	23	4	11
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	5	–
James Cook (GB)	–	6	–
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	–	8	–
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	–	–	3
Tony Thornton (USA)	13	–	5
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	6
Ray Close (GB)	–	–	9

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
John David Jackson (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	1	12	–
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	6	6
Quincy Taylor (USA)	3	10	12
Lamar Parks (USA)	4	–	4
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	5	4	2
Neville Brown (GB)	6	–	8
Joe Lipsey (USA)	7	11	7
Roberto Duran (PAN)	8	8	9
Reggie Johnson (USA)	9	1	5
Richie Woodhall (GB)	10	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	2	–
Steve Collins (IRE)	–	3	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	14	5	3
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	16	7	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	9	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	11	–	1
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	7	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	C
Ronald Wright (USA)	1	1	4
Carl Daniels (USA)	2	3	3
Simon Brown (USA)	3	–	–
Julio C. Green (USA)	4	5	2
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	5	12	11
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	6	2	9
Robert McCracken (GB)	7	–	8
Stephen Martinez (USA)	8	–	–
Darrin Morris (USA)	9	–	7
Patrick Mbehbenle (CAMER)	10	–	–
Peter Venancio (BRA)	25	4	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	6	1
Tony Marshall (USA)	16	8	10
Ahmat Dottuev (RUS)	–	9	–
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	21	10	12
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	5
Paul Vaden (USA)	12	–	6

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
James McGirt (USA)	1	9	6
Oba Carr (USA)	2	10	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	3	–	1
Gary Jacobs (GB)	4	6	–
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	5	–	7
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	6	8	9
Andrew Murray (GUY)	7	4	5
Luis Santana (USA)	8	–	–
Santos Cardona (PR)	9	–	–
Hector Camacho (PR)	10	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	1	3
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	2	1
Gert Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	–	3	–
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	13	5	–
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	7	11
David Gonzalez (USA)	12	–	8
Harold Brazier (USA)	14	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	1	–
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	C
Frankie Randall (USA)	1	–	10

Lamas (USA)	2	6	–
Tzoyra (AUSTRL)	3	–	1
Lopez (USA)	4	–	–
Camacho (USA)	5	–	–
Lopez (MEX)	6	–	–
Rojas (CHILE)	7	–	–
Pineda (COL)	8	5	7
Vasquez (USA)	9	–	–
Castillo (USA)	10	–	–
Kayumba (FRA)	17	2	11
Cortes (ARG)	–	3	–
Bingman (SA)	–	4	–
Scott (USA)	18	7	–
Galligan (GB)	20	8	–
Rahilou (FRA)	21	9	–
Merle (FRA)	27	10	–
Sanchez (DR)	–	–	2
Moore (USA)	23	–	3
Murray (USA)	26	–	4
Bonilla (COL)	–	–	5
Hernandez (PR)	–	–	6
Pendleton (USA)	–	–	8
Tyson (USA)	16	–	9

WEIGHTS	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Okubek (JAP)	–	C	–
Ruelas (USA)	–	–	C
Johnson (USA)	1	1	2
Julio (COL)	2	6	1
Mendy (FRA)	3	12	12
Marchena (MEX)	4	–	7
Silver (GB)	5	–	6
Rocha (COL)	6	–	–
Silva (ARG)	7	–	–
Mitchell (USA)	8	4	10
Kamartesz (USA)	9	–	–
Cervera (COL)	10	–	–

Camacho (USA)	–	2	–
Tejeda (ARG)	–	3	–
Lopez (USA)	–	5	5
Griffith (USA)	18	7	9
Molina (COL)	24	8	3
Tiaureh (INDO)	30	9	–
Takeda (JAP)	–	10	–
Marimon (COL)	–	–	4
Rojas (USA)	–	–	8

WEIGHTS	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Lelija (USA)	C	–	–
Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
Molina (PR)	–	–	C
Ruelas (USA)	1	4	4
Garcia (COL)	2	–	–
Yuma (FRA)	3	6	6
Rowe (USA)	4	–	2
Taylor (HOLL)	5	–	8
Alexandrov (RUS)	6	–	–
Ley (CAN)	7	–	–
Jones (USA)	8	8	5
Diego Paz (ARG)	9	3	–
Speed (USA)	10	–	7
Cervera (VEN)	17	1	–
Garcia (COL)	–	2	–
Warren (USA)	14	5	–
Soo Choi (KOR)	23	7	–
Rodriguez (DR)	11	9	1
Murphy (USA)	–	10	–
Pedroza (COL)	–	–	3
Jose Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	9
Sakpraykaroon (THAI)	–	–	10

WEIGHTS	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Ramsey (USA)	C	–	–
Lopez (VEN)	–	C	–
Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Soto (MEX)	1	–	–
Ramon Gonzalez (MEX)	2	–	5
Jaime Arnaud (PHIL)	3	3	4
Cabrera (COL)	4	6	2
Jose Quiroga (USA)	5	–	–
Ivan Segura (USA)	6	10	1
Jones (USA)	7	–	3
Jae Kwan Park (KOR)	8	2	–
Julio Ramos (DR)	9	–	–
Quiroga (USA)	10	–	–
Cardona (COL)	–	1	–
Hideki Harada (JAP)	11	4	–
Sakpraykaroon (THAI)	–	5	–

Orlando Soto (PAN)	18	7	8
Fernando Rodriguez (USA)	30	8	–
Sean Murphy (GB)	–	9	–
Jose Badillo (PR)	–	–	6
Benny Amparo (USA)	21	–	7
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	9
Ole Kiatwanway (THAI)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	C
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	–	4
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	–	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	3	9	5
Jose Badillo (PR)	4	–	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	5	5	–
Yong Woon Park (KOR)	6	–	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	7	–	12
Nestor Farias (ARG)	8	8	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	9	–	–
Junior Jones (USA)	10	–	9
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	–	1	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	18	2	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	–	3	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	14	4	–
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	25	6	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	17	7	–
Rudy Zavala (USA)	–	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	1
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	2
Welcome Ncita (SA)	12	12	3
Maui Diaz (USA)	23	–	6
Cesar Soto (MEX)	–	–	7
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	8
Cesar Polanco (DR)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	–	–
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	2	10	–
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	3	–	8
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	4	–	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	5	–	–
John Armour (GB)	6	–	–
Roberto Moran (ARG)	7	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	8	1	3
Harold Mestre (COL)	9	11	2
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	10	–	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	13	2	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	11	3	11
Eddie Cook (USA)	–	4	5
Abraham Torres (VEN)	28	5	10
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	6	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	–	7	–
Frank Toledo (USA)	–	8	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	16	9	12
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	–	–	4
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	21	–	6
Derrick Whiteboy (SA)	29	–	7
Luis Rolon (PR)	–	–	9

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	6	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	C	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	C
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	1	4	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	2	–	–
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	3	–	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	4	2	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	5	12	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	6	–	–
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	7	9	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	8	–	–
Armando Salazar (MEX)	9	–	–
Domingo Sosa (DR)	10	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	3	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	5	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	24	7	–
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	–	8	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	19	10	–
Harold Gray (COL)	–	–	1
Robert Quiroga (USA)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	18	–	4

Carlos Mercado (COL)	–	–	5
Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	6
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	–	–	7
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	–	–	8
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	–	9
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	14	–	10

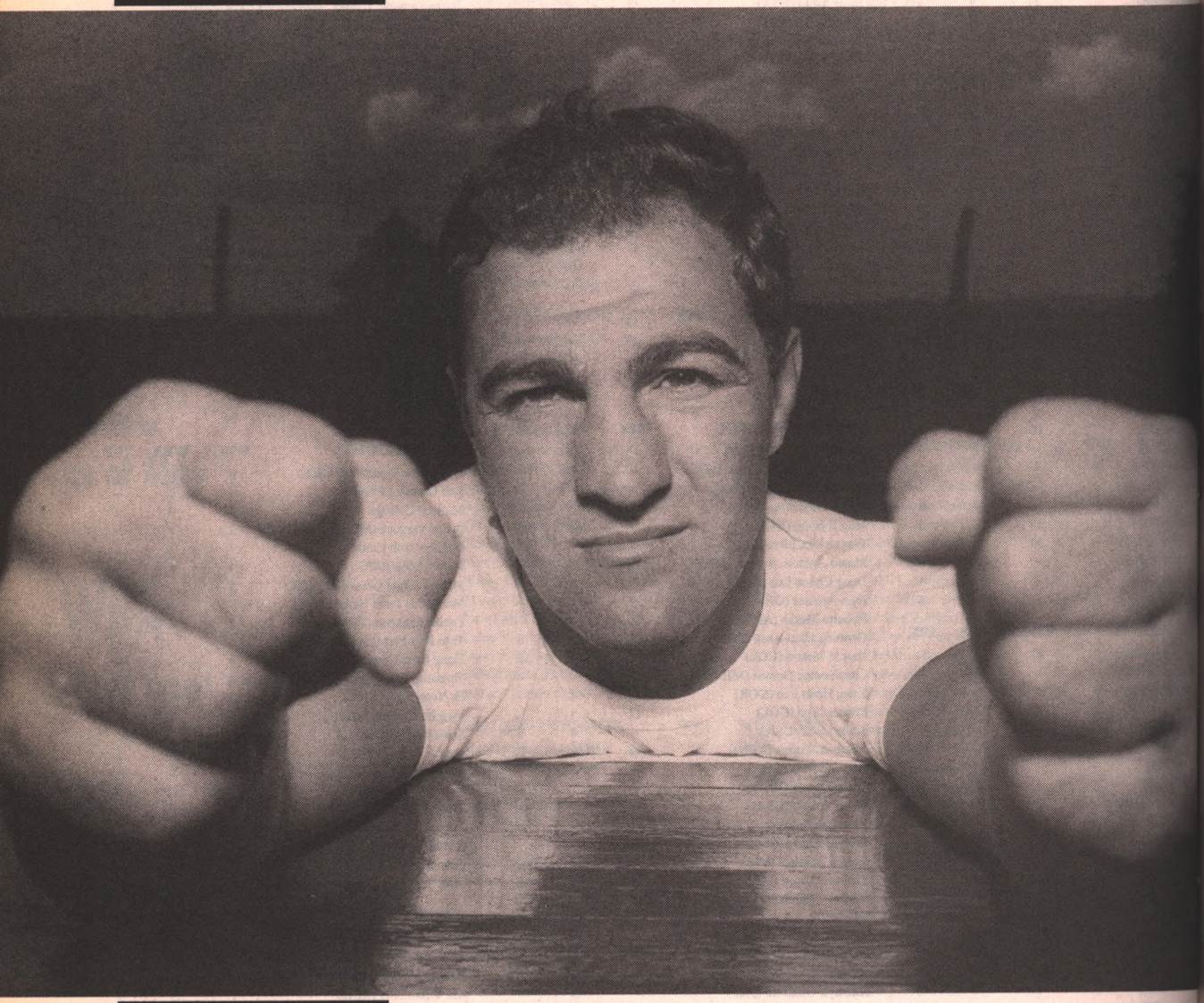
FLYWEIGHTS	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Hugo Soto (ARG)	1	12	–
Chatchai Eric-Gym (THAI)	2	–	–
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	3	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	4	–	8
Mark Johnson (USA)	5	–	3
Danny Romero (USA)	6	–	6
Danny Nunez (DR)	7	–	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	8	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	9	–	–
Enrique Orozco (MEX)	10	–	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	–	1	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	26	2	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	3	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	25	4	–
David Griman (VEN)	15	5	–
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	–	6	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	7	1
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	8	–
Chokchai Chorniwat (THAI)	–	9	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	22	10	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	19	–	2
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	4
Robbie Regan (GB)	14	11	5
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	–	7
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	9
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	24	–	10

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Michael Carbajal (USA)	1	3	1
Javier Varguez (MEX)	2	–	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	3	8	4
Jesus Chong (MEX)	4	6	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	5	–	–
Manuel de Jesus Herrera (DR)	6	–	–
Fahlan Sakkirin (THAI)	7	4	2
Toto Pow Phongsawang (THAI)	8	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	9	–	–
Phanieng Sasiprabha-Poontarat (THAI)	10	–	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	21	1	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	28	2	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	17	5	11
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	29	7	6
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	11	9	10
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	24	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	3
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	–	–	5
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	–	–	7
Leon Salazar (PAN)	–	–	8
Marcos Pacheco (MEX)	30	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	5	7
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	3	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	4	–	12
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	5	1	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	6	2	1
Jack Russell (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	8	10	–
Onewin Chareon (THAI)	9	–	3
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	10	–	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	19	4	–
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	13	6	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	12	7	–
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	8	2
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	–	9	–
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	–	–	4
Felix Naranjo (COL)	–	–	5
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	25	11	6
Rafael Torres (DR)	–	–	8
Roger Espanola (PHIL)	–	–	9
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

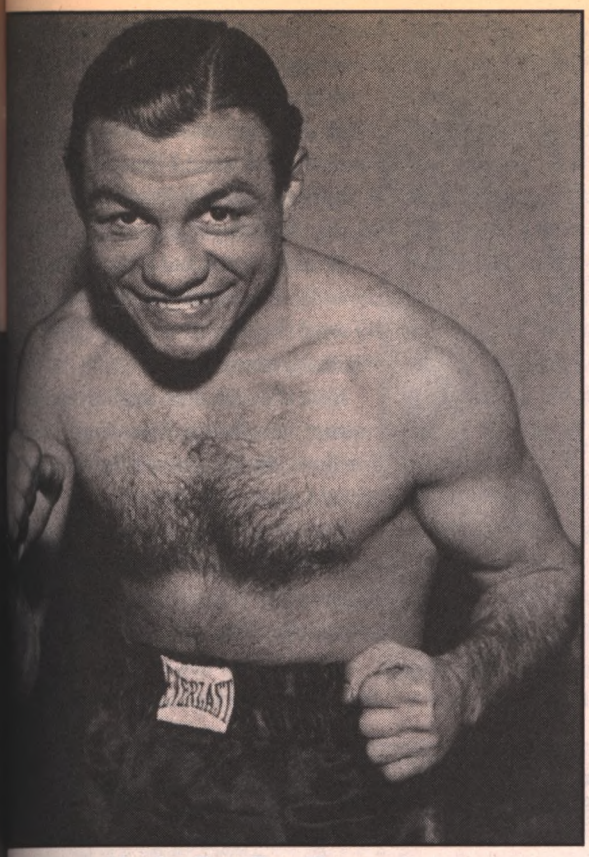
THE TOP-10 ITALIAN-AMERICANS OF ALL-TIME



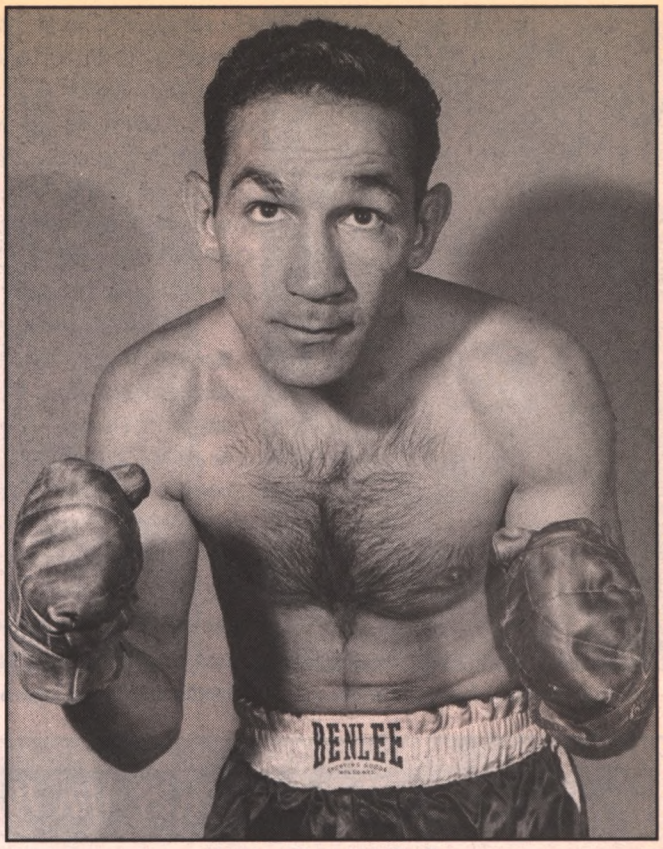
Number One: Rocky Marciano

From THE RING, May 1977

Not innately fitted to be a heavyweight champion, Rocky Marciano, chosen as the finest of the Italian-Americans, carefully honed his assets



Number Two: Tony Canzoneri



Number Three: Willie Pep

Lester Bromberg

The history of fighters, like the history of America, springs from a mixture of races. The mixture represents the hero-worship ...h followed the pioneers.

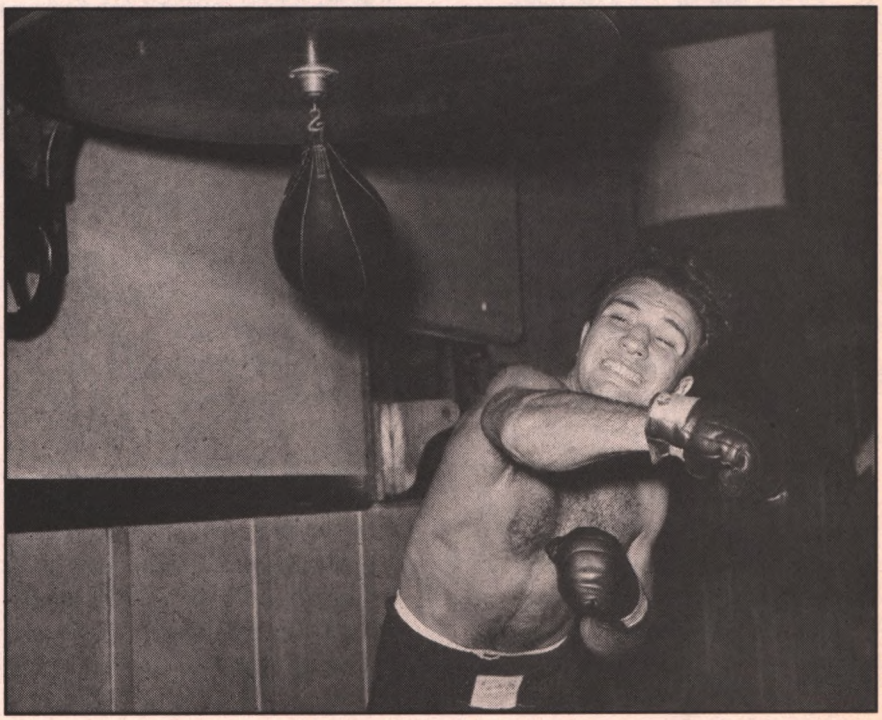
THE RING is recognizing this by periodically ...ting the 10-best boxers from each ...nality. Remember, these are not standard- ...rs who were born abroad. These lists are ...rised only of those who have been born here ...e U.S.

The first of these hyphenates are the Italian- ...icans. It is fitting because the members have ...the oldest of those which have taken up ...g, barring the Irish, who will be taken up in ...ourse.

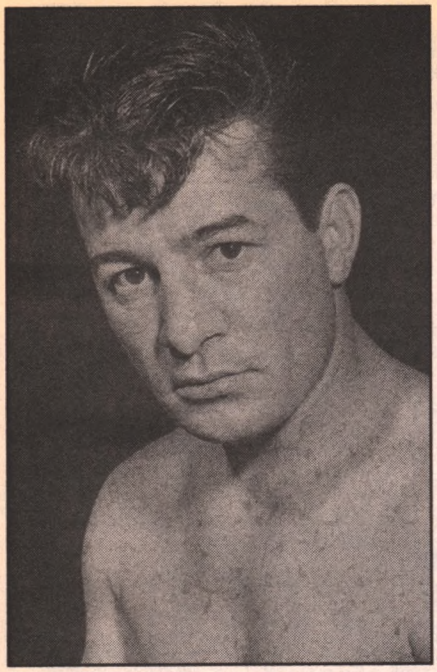
They can be traced through the mass ...ement to cities of immigrant blocs. These ...e in the early days of the 19th century. It is ...ical that the best fighters come from the ...gry people. And there was bare escape from ...vation for the thousands (later millions) of ...ne-Americans-to-be who came to the U.S. ...n Ellis Island. They predominantly poured ...n the southern provinces of Italy—Sicily, ...bria, et al—where the land was unfruitful ...the class distinctions very sharp.

Some of these younger children of the immigrants were European-born, and they picked up the sports of the new land. But they will not be included in this series. This means Johnny Dundee, "The Scotch Wop," born in Shaikai, Italy, and a notable featherweight champion, has been excluded.

The hunger that was in the blood jumped over



Number Four: Jake LaMotta



Number Five: Rocky Graziano

a generation to Rocky Marciano, chosen as the finest of the Italian-Americans. His real name was Rocco Francis Marchegiano, and he came from Brockton, Massachusetts, where he worked in the shoe factories. Until his death, which occurred at the age of 46 in a plane crash, Rocky never forgot the acid odor of leather. "I worked in the shoe plants; there really was a smell there." he was often in the habit of saying.

His rise after joining up with Al Weill, his manager, brought comparative riches to Rocky. It still meant hard work. Weill was an old-school taskmaster. One can't forget how Marciano tried to get Weill's permission to get married. "It interferes with my plans for your fighting," Al said bluntly. He gave in—grudgingly. And the artistry of management by Weill worked itself out. It must be called artistry because Rocky was not fitted for a heavyweight champion. He started late, at 26. He was clumsy, and he had inordinately heavy legs. But Weill brought in a patient teacher, Charley Goldman, who knew Rocky could punch.

Rocky developed a polish to his right hand, which came up from the floor with a stunning force. Goldman called it "Suzy-Q." Rocky called it "my Mary Anne." In later years he was to call his only child Mary Anne.

He had a tremendous body, and he trained it devotedly. It never let him down—no defeats in 49 total bouts, 43 won by knockout. A remarkable record.

He was on the floor sparingly, as he had a resistant chin. But one fight during which it let him down, the first one with Jersey Joe Walcott, proved a cameo of his best.

Walcott only had viewed Marciano's career superficially and said one day in his training at Atlantic City, "If I can't handle that clumsy guy, you can take my record out of the book."

Jersey Joe put him on his back, in the very first round. The punch might have knocked out

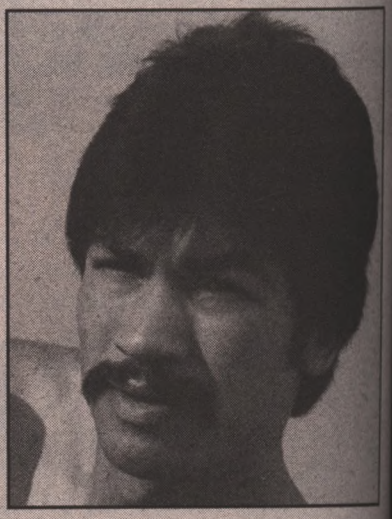
THE RING RATINGS, *May 1977*

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Muhammad Ali, Chicago, IL

1. **George Foreman**, Houston, TX
2. **Ken Norton**, San Diego, CA
3. **Jimmy Young**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Larry Holmes**, Easton, PA
5. **Duane Bobick**, Bowlus, MN
6. **Howard Smith**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Johnny Boudreaux**, Houston, TX
8. **Stan Ward**, Sacramento, CA
9. **Ron Lyle**, Denver, CO
10. **Joe Bugner**, England

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Monzon, Argentina

1. **Mike Colbert**, Portland, OR
2. **Rodrigo Valdes**, Colombia
3. **Bennie Briscoe**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Bobby Watts**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **David Love**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Alan Minter**, England
7. **Gratien Tonna**, France
8. **Vito Antuofermo**, Italy
9. **Tony Licata**, New Orleans, LA
10. **Casey Gacic**, Cleveland, OH



Carlos Palomino

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant

1. **Victor Galindez***, Argentina
2. **Len Hutchins**, Detroit, MI
3. **Richie Kates**, Brighton, NJ
4. **John Conteh****, England
5. **Jesse Burnett**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Bobby Cassidy**, Brentwood, NY
7. **Miguel Cuello**, Argentina
8. **Vonzell Johnson**, Kalamazoo, MI
9. **Alvaro Lopez**, Stockton, CA
10. **Mike Rossman**, Turnersville, NJ

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Miguel Angel Castellini*, Argentina

1. **Eckhard Dagge****, Germany
2. **Maurice Hope**, England
3. **Elisha Obed**, Bahamas
4. **Rocky Mattioli**, Australia
5. **Monty Betham**, New Zealand
6. **Jose Duran**, Spain
7. **Miguel Campanino**, Argentina
8. **Koichi Wajima**, Japan
9. **Frank Wissenbach**, Germany
10. **Alvin Anderson**, Baltimore, MD

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Palomino, Mexico**

1. **Pete Ranzany**, Sacramento, CA
2. **Clyde Gray**, Canada
3. **Jose Cuevas***, Mexico
4. **John Stracey**, England
5. **Armando Muniz**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Randy Shields**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Johnny Gant**, Washington, D.C.
8. **Angel Espada**, Puerto Rico
9. **Miguel Barreto**, Puerto Rico
10. **Mel Dennis**, Houston, TX

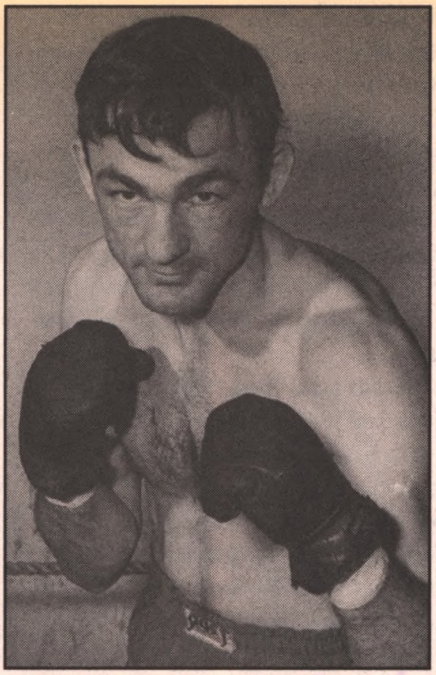
ther guy. It only warmed up Rocky.

Rocky proceeded to stay in there, getting ter as he went. In the 13th round, he backed lcott to the ropes and Suzy-Q landed on the ion. Walcott went down, and he was not ing up; everyone saw that. I have rarely seen unch create the paralysis that that one ficted.

What can you do for an encore?

I say the number-two among Italian-ericans is a little man equally skilled as a er and puncher, Tony Canzoneri. His career ched from the bantamweight division to the therweight division to the lightweight ision. He was a champion all the way, from 5 to 1939.

His precocity was staggering. When he was r so he fought one of the terrors of the ring, Taylor. Each time he improved. To this day aren't sure how old he was when he boxed ny Bass for the featherweight title at the old



Number Six: Carmen Basilio

Madison Square Garden. When he won the title he said he was 21 because the rules barred anybody under that age. The next day he admitted he might have been "17 or so."

When Tony advanced into the lightweights, he probably was at his best. It was at an unparalleled level. Jackie "Kid" Berg, Tommy Grogan, Billy Petrolle, Cecil Payne, Barney Ross—he plucked off great names as if they were every-other-week opponents.

A shy kid all the time, Tony was eloquent with his fists.

A precious anecdote holds over from his series with Lou Ambers, his former sparring partner. In the time he had worked with Lou, Tony indulged himself in the luxury of a stogie. Ambers, a pious athlete, thought this was uncalled for. They met when Tony was champion, and Tony took the fight. When they again met, Ambers was the winner. He dropped in the dressing room and said, grinning, "See,

UNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
orld Champ: Wilfred Benitez, uerto Rico

1. **Antonio Cervantes**, Colombia
2. **Saensak Muangsurin****, Thailand
3. **Hector Thompson**, Australia
4. **David Green**, England
5. **Rudy Hernandez**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Monroe Brooks**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Nicolino Locche**, Argentina
8. **Saoul Mamby**, New York, NY
9. **Mike Everett**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Cemal Kamaci**, Austria

IGHTWEIGHTS
orld Champ: Roberto uran*, Panama

1. **Esteban DeJesus****, Puerto Rico
2. **Edwin Viruet**, Puerto Rico
3. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
4. **Vilomar Fernandez**, Dominican Republic
5. **Perico Fernandez**, Spain
6. **Hector Medina**, Dominican Republic
7. **Josue Marquez**, Puerto Rico
8. **Hugo Barraza**, Colombia
9. **Giancarlo Usai**, Italy
10. **Fernand Roelands**, Belgium

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Samuel Serrano*, Puerto Rico

1. **Alfredo Escalera****, Puerto Rico
2. **Tyrone Everett**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Walter Seeley**, Sayville, NY
4. **Rafael Limon**, Mexico
5. **Ben Villaflor**, Philippines
6. **Apollo Yoshio**, Japan
7. **Blakeny Matthews**, South Africa
8. **Ruben Castillo**, Las Vegas, NV
9. **Sigfredo Rodriguez**, Mexico
10. **Ezequiel Sanchez**, Dominican Republic

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alexis Arguello, Nicaragua

1. **Danny Lopez****, Los Angeles, CA
2. **Dong Kyun Yum**, South Korea
3. **Leonel Hernandez**, Venezuela
4. **Art Hafey**, Canada
5. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil
6. **Jose Cervantes**, Colombia
7. **Pedro Jiminez**, Spain
8. **David Kotey**, Ghana
9. **Rafael Ortega***, Panama
10. **Elio Cotina**, Italy

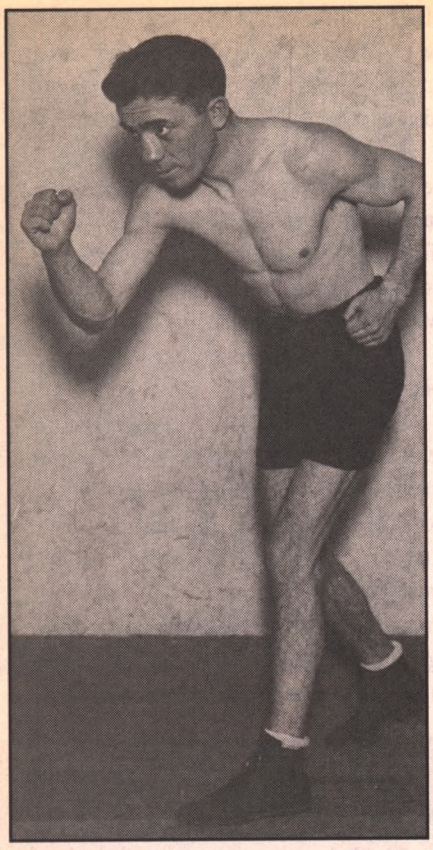
BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alfonso Zamora*, Mexico

1. **Carlos Zarate****, Mexico
2. **Wilfredo Gomez**, Puerto Rico
3. **Eusebio Pedroza**, Panama
4. **Raul Tirada**, Mexico
5. **Paddy Maguire**, Ireland
6. **Frankie Duarte**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Robert Rubaldino**, Mexico
8. **Salvatore Fabrizio**, Italy
9. **Daniel Trioulaire**, France
10. **Sean O'Grady**, Oklahoma City, OK

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Miguel Canto, Mexico**

1. **Guty Espadas***, Mexico
2. **Yoko Gushiken**, Japan
3. **Luis Estaba**, Venezuela
4. **Jorge Lujan**, Panama
5. **Juan Guzman**, Dominican Republic
6. **Alfonso Lopez**, Panama
7. **Betulio Gonzalez**, Venezuela
8. **Juan Alvarez**, Mexico
9. **Willie Jensen**, Las Vegas, NV
10. **Patrick Mambrwe**, Zambia

***WBA** ****WBC**



Number Seven: Pete Herman

didn't I tell you not to smoke those cigars?"

It is impossible to depict how deeply people revered Canzoneri. For example, when he retired from the ring, he went into a night club act with Mark Plant and Joey Adams. In this act he submitted to being punched around by Plant. Eventually, Frank Graham, the great sports columnist, got around to seeing the act. He winced every time he saw a comedian land on Tony. "I'll never go to see it again," said Frank. "It's a personal hurt."

Finally, the act fell on evil days; it just didn't draw the fans. Later, Tony met a member of the one-time faithful who said, "Oh, Tony, I kept going past that night club where you were playing."

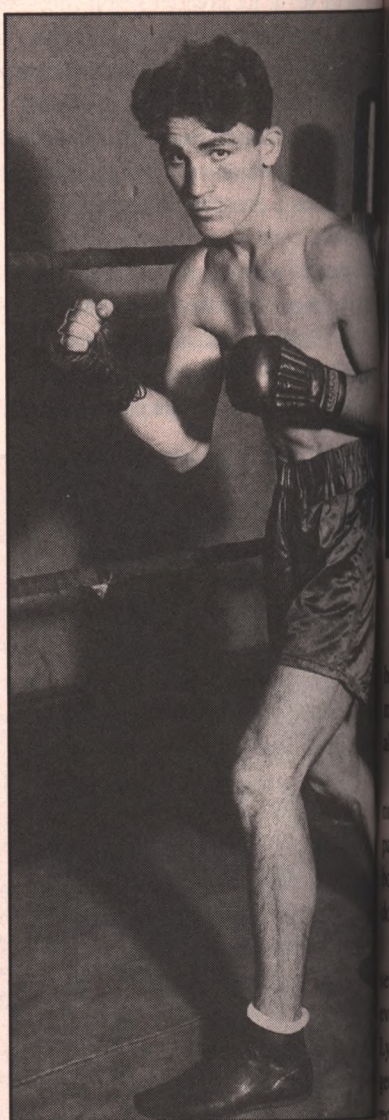
He didn't stir. "Yeah," Tony said. "All my friends went past it, never in."

The number-three Italian-American is a classic exponent of style, Willie Pep. He had a corner on the market for shifty moves, dazzlingly reversed. He rarely hit with power; he never set himself that long. But anyone who liked to see fluid motion went ape watching Willie.

This isn't to say he didn't have tough fights. In his featherweight title series with Sandy Saddler, he fought his heart out. In fact, when he won the title back, in the second fight, he gave a display of ruggedness and skill. He was so cut up by the vicious-punching Saddler that he wouldn't let the photographers into the room after the fight. He had given plenty, though. He kept standing on the toes of Sandy's feet. And they covered a lot of territory.

In his career, Willie Pep, the translation for Guglielmo Papaleo, came early and stayed late. He was 18 when he started, but he didn't call quits until 1966. This gave him 26 years in boxing. He had sandwiched in 241 fights, 164 of which he won by decision.

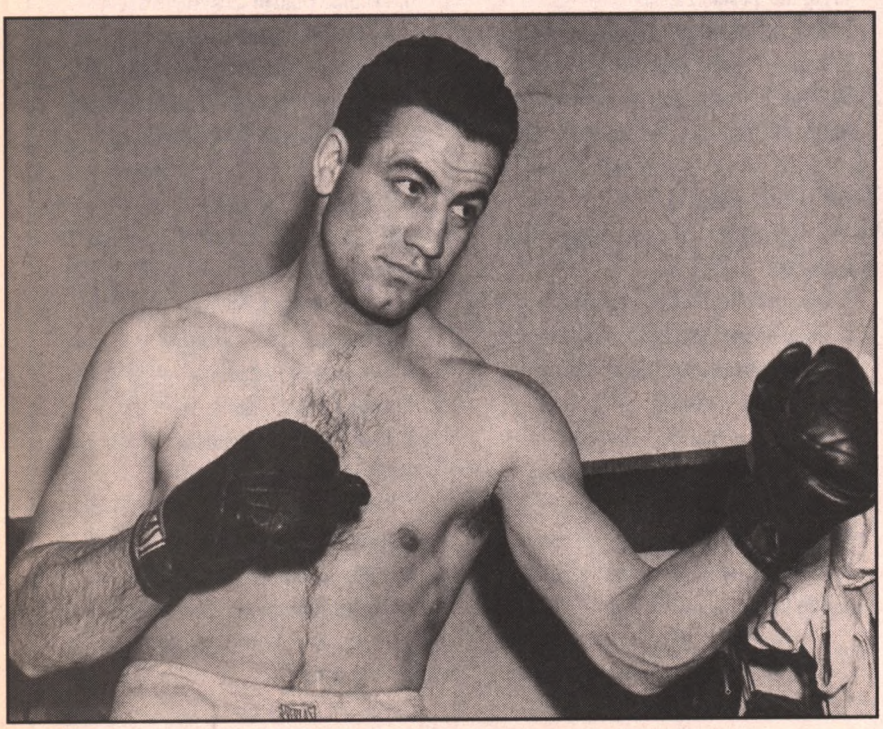
Someone who knew Pep's restless disposition observed on his retirement, "That's the longest he'll stay at any job." He wasn't far from right. Pep tried show business, the beer business, refereeing.



Number Nine: Bat Battalino

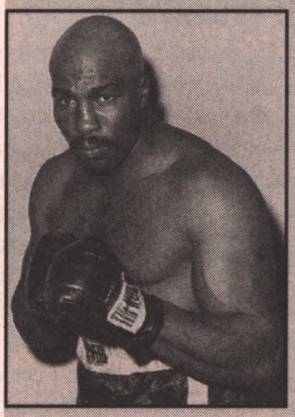
Fourth on the Italian-American list is Jak LaMotta. He was the strongest man in t divisions this side of Marciano. It was impossible to hurt him. He showed tirelessness.

Based on his showings against Ra Robinson—they went at it no less than si times—he has to be rated a versatile performe He had speed and the ability to change pace Possibly he was lacking in power. What did matter? He was coming there endlessly, bent ove like a charging bull.



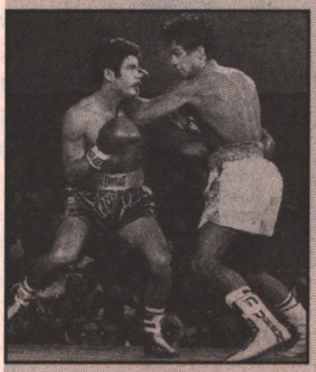
Number Eight: Fred Apostoli

The Cover: Teenage junior welterweight sensation Wilfred Benitez listens to his handler/father Gregorio, which, as Lester Bromberg points out, could be the key to his success or his undoing. At 17, Benitez is the youngest world champion in boxing history.



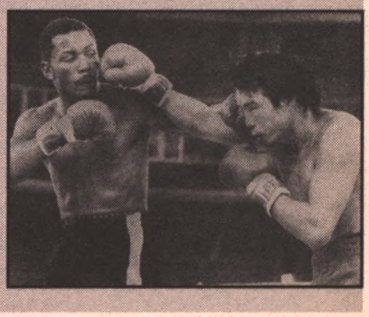
Hard-Hitting Heavyweight: Las Vegas correspondent Shirley Norman interviews heavyweight contender Earnie Shavers, who is seeking a try at world champion Muhammad Ali. Shavers is hard in the ring and a softie outside; he begins the interview by giving Norman a bottle of French perfume.

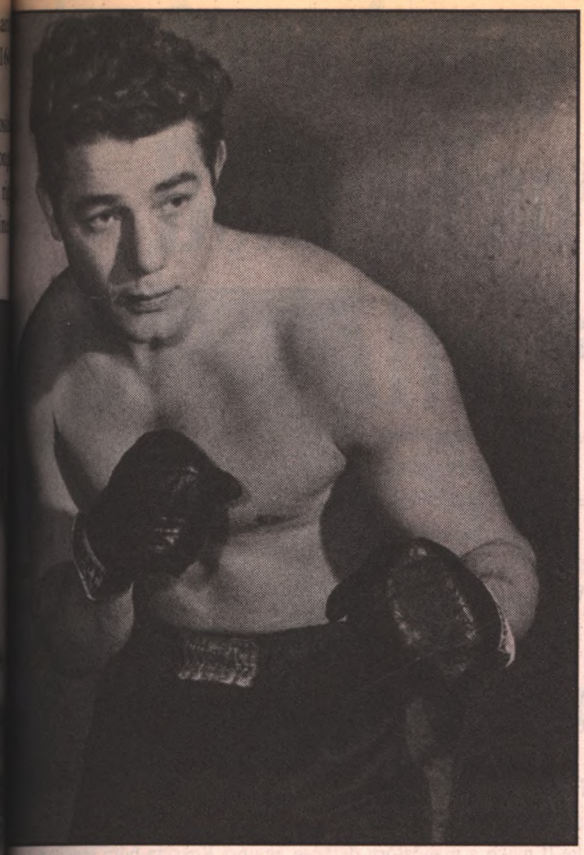
Making Like The Mongoose: Thirty-one-year-old light heavyweight contender Jesse Burnett started his pro career at an advanced age. But like fellow San Diego resident and former world champion Archie Moore, Burnett seems headed for the top. The Californian is seeking a rematch with WBA champion Victor Galindez; in April '76, Galindez topped him by split decision in Copenhagen.



Tenth Defense For Duran: Arguably the best fighter in the world, lightweight champion Roberto Duran retains the WBA lightweight title by halting defensive wizard Vilomar Fernandez in Miami Beach. Reporting from ringside, Hank Kaplan writes of the 13th-round finish, "The valiant Fernandez was hurt, with blurred vision and breathing difficulty."

Fighter Of The Month: WBC lightweight champion Esteban DeJesus is honored for his successful defense against Japan's Buzzsaw Yamabe in Puerto Rico. The southpaw challenger never threatened; he was floored in the first round and finished in the sixth. It was DeJesus' second defense.





Number Ten: Tony Janiro

mber five is Rocky Graziano. He had the gift of the poet. In other words, a dynamic punch. This ability to turn a fight around in any round saved fight for him. He had showmanship personified. He still has it. Turn on ny dial on TV and you see him in a commercial these days.

w you aren't making any mistake in slotting Carmen Basilio at r six. He had a fighting heart, plus the equipment to set a punishing His two thrillers against Tony DeMarco were models of their type. His back against Johnny Saxton, after a loss by horrible decision, was a dose of lethal punching.

may be that you haven't great familiarity with Pete Herman, placed h. He was a bantamweight from New Orleans who could do ing. The old-timers talk about the time he "loaned" the title to Joe He was going over to England to face Jimmy Wilde and feared the business. It didn't matter, really. He stopped Wilde and then ed the championship here with Lynch.

ul Apostoli is number eight. He was the San Francisco Adonis of the d War II period. He was a stand-up middleweight, equally versed on se and attack. At one time he was a champion, but he couldn't keep up ce. The latter portion of his career remains shrouded in mystery, as his ell away to upper-crust clubfighting.

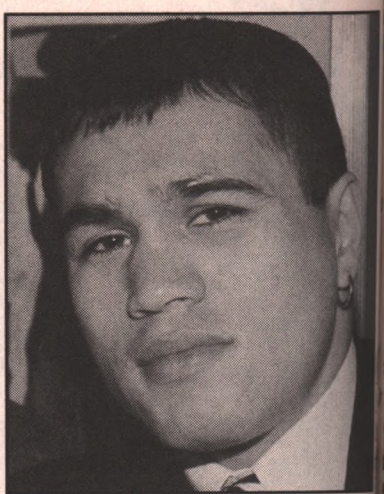
mber nine is Bat Battalino, an exciting featherweight who had color way. He might have been better if he hadn't ballooned into a eight.

nd the number-10 spot belongs to Tony Janiro, a baby-faced weight and middleweight. He had incomparable ability. He could you reach to hit him and at the same time step in with blinding speed. nly thing was that he couldn't resist the girls who were boxing es. They ruined him many a night. ■

Looking Ahead

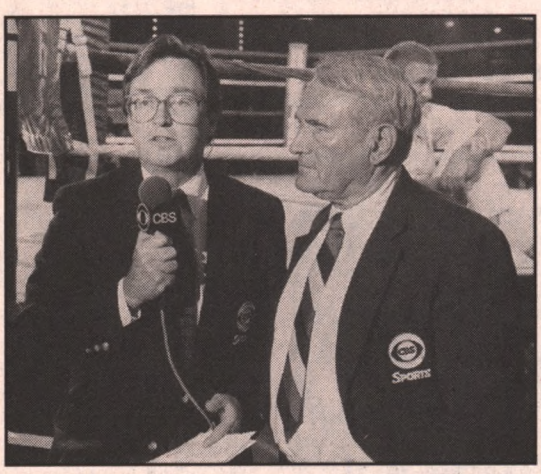
By Steve Farhood

THE ENDLESS SUMMER



Leija is headed for a showdown with Ruelas

If you're counting the days until you-know-who is released from prison, here are a few fights that'll help you pass the time. In one of the best lightweight matchups of the year, WBC champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez will face mandatory challenger Leavander Johnson in Juarez, Mexico, on August 6 or 7; as we went to press, the word was WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez would meet WBA champion Juan Coggi in a unification battle on September 17 in Las Vegas. Also on the card: IBF welterweight champion Felix Trinidad vs. unbeaten and number-one ranked Yori Boy Campas. If Don King doesn't come to terms with Coggi (money has been a problem), Meldrick Taylor, and not Frankie Randall, will get the shot; if IBF junior welterweight champion Jake Rodriguez gets by George Scott, he'll make a mandatory defense against Russian-born sensation Kostya Tszyu in September; WBC super featherweight champion Jesse James Leija will make his first defense in August or September against Gabe Ruelas.



Ryan and Clancy: Back in our living rooms

WELCOME BACK, TIM & GIL

Boxing received a welcomed boost when CBS returned to ringside in June. The network, which aired big-time fights throughout the late-'70s and '80s, hadn't televised a bout since 1991. CBS no longer claims Major League Baseball and NFL football as part of its weekend sports programming. As a result, it turned back to boxing, which has always drawn steady ratings.

On June 12, CBS aired a junior featherweight battle between Junior Jones and Orlando Fernandez. As we went to press, three other bouts were scheduled for the summer, including Kevin Kelley-Georgie Navarro and Zack Padilla-Hector Lopez. According to Rick Gentile, the network's senior vice president of production, there will be four or five more shows in October and November.

"We've always stressed good, competitive fights, and that's still our philosophy," he said. "We'll try and find young up-and-coming fighters, as we did [in the early-'80s] with Ray Mancini and Hector Camacho. We're hoping this works. We're not just doing a couple of fights."

Here's to hoping they do a couple of hundred.

LISTEN UP...

The **Tommy Morrison-Herbie Hide** heavyweight clash has landed in Hong Kong, with **Frank Bruno-Bo Mercer** on the undercard. It'll happen in September or October ... Top Rank matchmaker **Ron Katz** on former IBF junior welterweight champion **Charles "The Natural" Murray**: "I'm not interested in using him. Nothing personal, he's a nice fighter, but the guy never does a rating. Some fighters are like that" ... It now seems certain WBA/IBF heavyweight champion **Michael Moorer** will make his first defense against **George Foreman** on HBO in November.

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olumns by renowned boxing writers Steve Farhood d Jeff Ryan

ollector's Centerfold: Photos taken by boxing's top tographers or a classic *Ring* painting, suitable for ming

he Ring's Top 10 ratings in 16 weight classes, plus r "pound for pound best" and the records of all ranked hters

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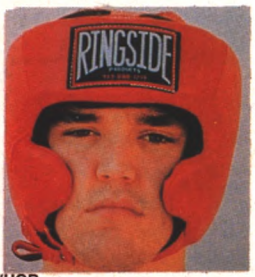


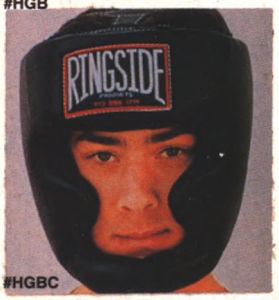
#HGB

Traditional Training Headgear

#HGB

$52.00

S,M,L,XL



#HGBC

Full Face Headgear

#HGBC

$59.00

S,M,L,XL

Sparring/Training Gloves (4 styles)

- All Training Gloves are priced per set of 4 gloves.
- Also available in pairs at half the set price.
- Available in 14, 16 & 18 Oz. Sizes.

Lace Style

#RP-14	(14 Oz.)	$129.00
#RP-16	(16 Oz.)	$132.00
#RP-18	(18 Oz.)	$137.00

Elastic Style

#RP-14E	(14 Oz.)	$12
#RP-16E	(16 Oz.)	$13
#RP-18E	(18 Oz.)	$14

- Lace and Elastic Style Available in Red or Black.
- Mexican Style Available in Red only.
- International Style Available in Light Blue Only.

Mexican Style

#RP-14M	(14 Oz.)	$120.00
#RP-16M	(16 Oz.)	$125.00

International Style

#IGT-14	(14 Oz.)	$12
#IGT-16	(16 Oz.)	$12
#IGT-18	(18 Oz.)	$13

No-Foul Protectors

Traditional Style **#RPNF** **$47.00**

Mexican Style **#RPNF-2** **$40.00**

Both styles come in S,M,L,XL (Red Only)

Rib Protector

Don't let sore ribs slow down your sparring!

#BRP

$22.00

The Sparring Partner

The Sparring Partner that you only have to pay for once!

#ETSP

$59.00

Handwraps

#HW	(Red)	(170")	$4.50
#MHW	(Gold)	(180")	$5.50
#JRHW	(Blue)	(120")	$4.00

Mouthpieces

#BBMP	(Black)	$4
#SGMP	(Clear)	$4
#799	(Double)	$5

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